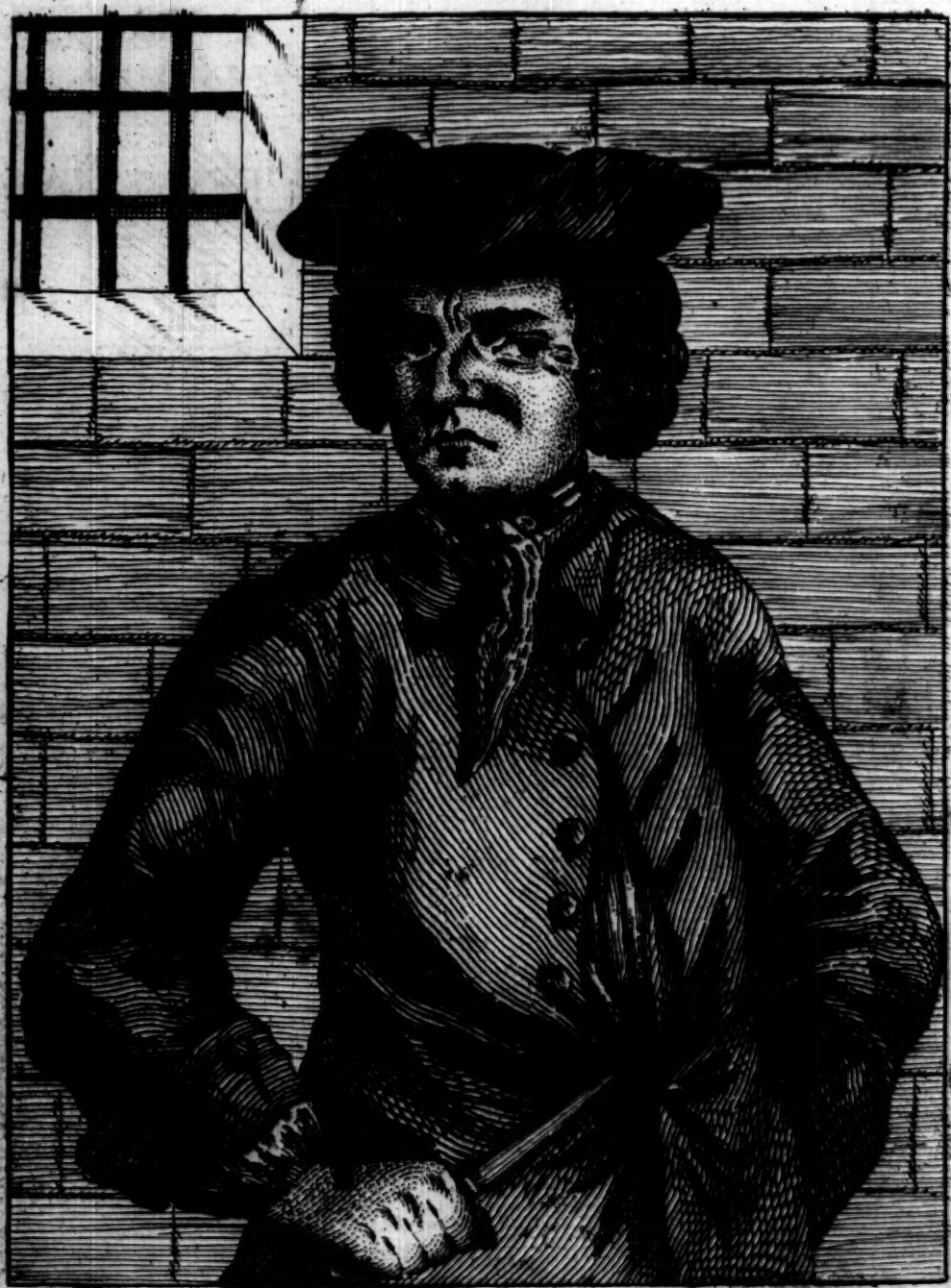
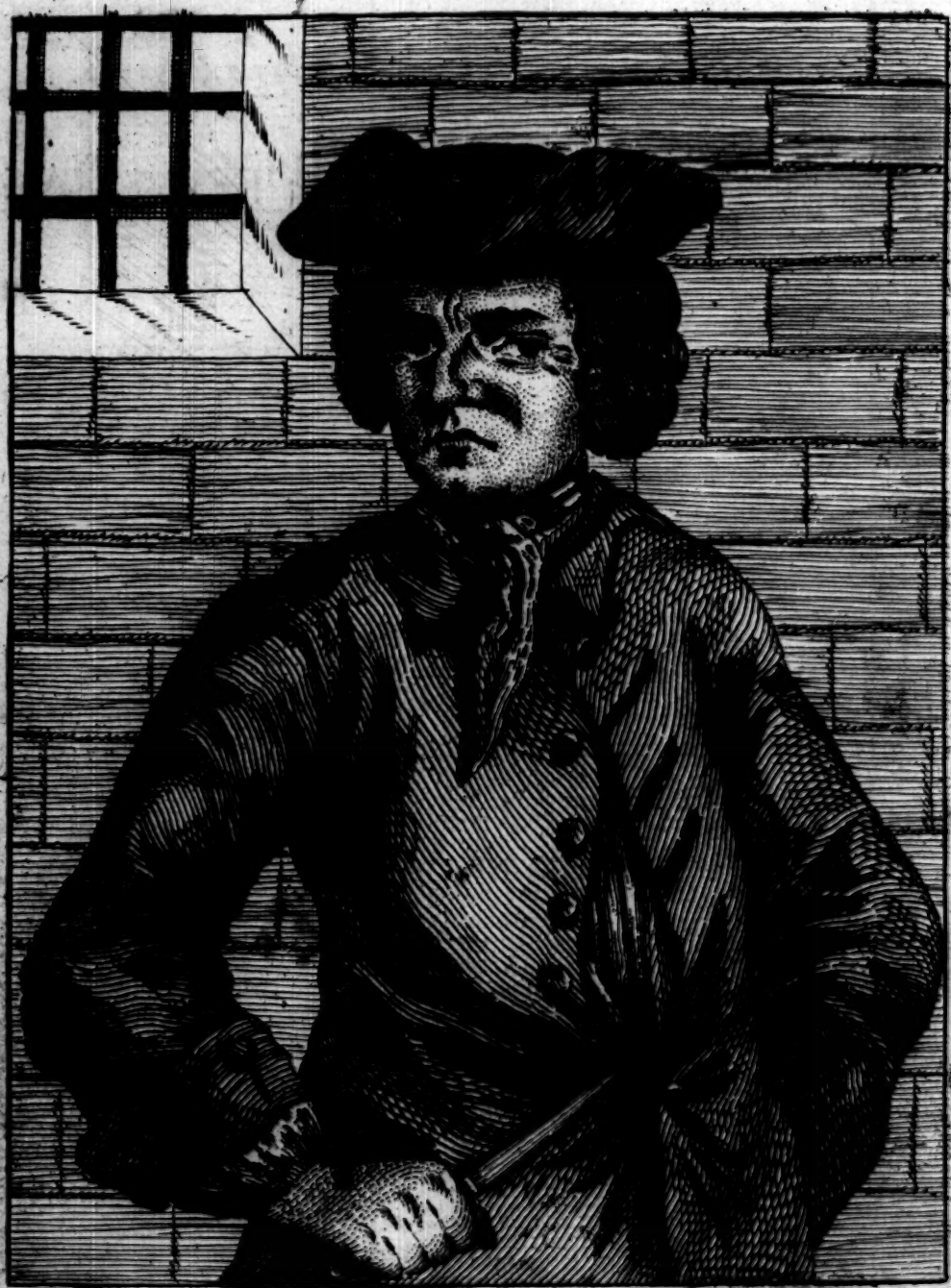


Gal 5 46



Ch. Lloyd Del.
Step.ⁿ Macdaniel
Drawn from Life in NEWGATE, June 10th 1756.

Gal 5 46



Ch^rl^s Ligh^t Del^d

Stepⁿ Macdaniel
Drawn from Life in NEWGATE, June 10th 1756.

A faithful NARRATIVE

Of the most WICKED and INHUMAN TRANSACTIONS of that
BLOODY-MINDED GANG of

Thief-takers, alias Thief-makers,

Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon, Eagan,
alias Cahagan; Jul 5 1756

(With a curious PRINT of MACDANIEL)

As also of that notorious ACCOMPLICE of theirs,

Mary Jones, and OTHERS.

S H E W I N G

The DIABOLICAL ARTS by them practised, to get innocent
Persons convicted for ROBBERIES, and to share amongst them-
selves the Rewards paid for such *Convictions*.

By what Stroke of *Providence* it was that the COMPILER of this
NARRATIVE became acquainted with this *Mystery of Iniquity*.

The unwearied DILIGENCE by him made use of to get to the Bottom of it;

The Manner of his Counter-acting those worst of *Villains*.

First, In his taking their Agent *Blee*, and
keeping him so secret as to baffle all their En-
quiries about him.

Secondly, In his Watchfulness over the other
Four at *Maidstone*, and suffering them to carry
on their Prosecution of the two Lads, *Ellis* and
Kelley, even to the convicting of them Ca-
pitally, and his then seizing and securing

the Prosecutors and their Accomplice *Berry*.

Thirdly, His prosecuting these Monsters in
so clear and perspicuous a Manner, that the
Court found them *Gilty* of every thing laid to
their Charge. But the Case being singular, they
were pleased to close with a SPECIAL VER-
DICT, i. e. to refer Sentence to the *Lords*, the
Judges.

A L S O

The Informations the AUTHOR of this Narrative received relative to the Affair of
Kidden, who was falsely accused, convicted, and executed, Feb. 4. 1756.

His searching this, at that Time clouded *Villany*, to its very Source. The Means
made use of to bring the principal ACTRESS in this most horrid Scene, *MARY*
JONES, to Justice. Her Commitment, &c. for the wilful Murder of *Joshua*
Kidden.

The whole being interspersed with divers other Accounts of a similar Nature, and
which cannot but astonish every one who considers them.

By J O S E P H C O X,

High Constable of the Hundred of *Black-beath*, in the County of *Kent*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for *Joseph Cox*. and sold by *M. Meckell*, at the *King's-Arms* in *Fleet-street*;
also to be had of all the Bookfellers and Pamphlet-shops in Town and Country;
and likewise by all the Newsmen. 1756.

Price 1s. 6d.

A JOURNAL OF THE PROGRESS OF THE

OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING
BLOODY-MINDED CASE OF

THE PROGRESS OF THE

THE PROGRESS OF THE

(WITH A SUPPLEMENT OF THE PROGRESS OF THE)

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T O T H E
P U B L I C.

 *N* order to render the following Narrative more acceptable to the Reader, I for a long Time solicited several Gentlemen, eminent for their Writings, for their Assistance.—Some excused themselves through want of Leisure, and some were for exacting such Terms, as were not in my Power to comply with; whilst others, of less Avarice though of more Ambition, were for relating it, in a Manner I own, I could not comprehend, i. e. in Verse.

After much fruitless Fatigue, I at length determined, by the Advice of my Friends, to publish it without any other Assistance, and without any other Advantage than plain Truth, simply told, to recommend it.

As the CRIMINALS, who are the Subjects of this Relation, were entire Strangers to me, I could have no Malice to them, whatever I had
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to their Actions. The Duty of my Office first led me into this tedious Enquiry; and as an honest Man, I could not afterwards decline it.

I should be sorry, if my Endeavours to bring these THIEF-MAKERS to Justice, should prove the Means of bringing the least Odium upon the honest Thief-taker, or any way tend to the Discouragement of the Apprehending those daring and desperate Felons, which at all Times so notoriously infest this great Metropolis.

The laudable Measures, which two worthy Magistrates for the County of Middlesex take to prevent Villains from escaping the Arms of Justice, without suffering the Apprehenders of them to give Evidence, will, I hope, be Security to the Public against both those Evils.

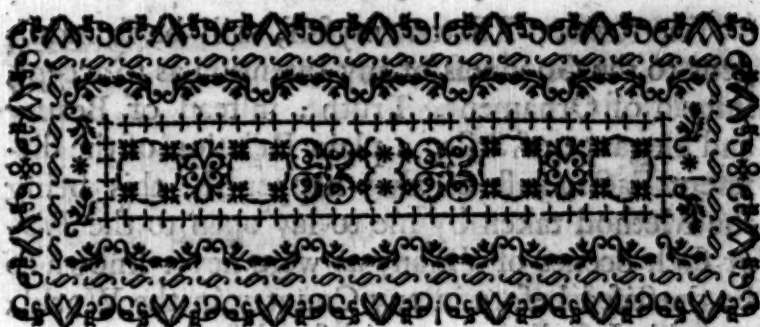
Whatever Labours I have undergone I shall never think my Time mispent in the Service of the PUBLIC.

Deptford, June

22, 1756.


JOSEPH COX.

A true



A true and faithful

NARRATIVE, &c.

 **T**HE wicked and diabolical Practice of *Thief-making* and *Thief-taking*, and of convicting poor friendless Lads who never were Thieves at all, was introduced (that is, as far as I could trace it) about twenty Years ago; since which, it has been carried on in some Degree of Proportion to the Increase of the Rewards designed for the Suppression of Robberies, not for making of Thieves.

As the several Instances in the Sequel of this *Narrative* are designed to shew to what an enormous Height this *Thief-making Art* has been carried, it is presumed it will not be disagreeable to the *Public* in general, nor to the much injured Part of them in particular, to be informed of the Means made use of, and the wonderful Manner by which this Practice has been discovered, and how some of the *Actors* therein have been brought to Punishment, that is, such a Punishment as the Laws of *England* can inflict, though far short of their Demerits.

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The Reader, I flatter myself, will be so indulgent to the Goodness of my Intention as to accept, instead of Ornament, Truth; instead of Beauty and elegance of Stile, a plain Relation of the different Facts, just as they happened; this being the Method taken by me to lay open to the Public such Scenes of Villany as were never known to be practised before in any Country in the World; and this I shall do, notwithstanding it may draw upon me the Resentment of all Wellwishers to the *Thief-taking Trade*; of whom, though I have great Hopes that the Numbers at present are but small, yet I know that their Resentment is exceeding keen, but I thank God I am no Ways afraid of the most desperate of them, and can safely rely for Protection on the same *Divine Providence*, that has so plainly and so wonderfully conducted this whole Affair through so many Difficulties, and brought such a Multitude of Incidents to concur to make the Guilt of these, the Scandal to human Nature and Enemies to Mankind, appear as plain as the Sun at Noon-day. Without this it would not have been possible to have convicted them, as they could have had the Assistance of their Friends, and Witnesses in Abundance, to prove whatever they had Occasion to prove, as was plain by the Evidence that *Mary Cary* gave,* who I afterwards tried and convicted of Perjury, tho' with some Difficulty.

Before I proceed any farther, I beg leave to observe, I would not be understood to think, that every Man who takes a Thief, is a dishonest Man, far from it, for certainly that Man who takes a real Thief, with an honest Intention of serving the Public (when it falls in his Way) and gives no Evidence but the Truth, and barely that, and takes

* See the *Session-Paper* for July 1756, pag. 261.

takes no extraordinary Methods to ensnare, entrap, or extort Confession from the poor Wretches when they have taken them, is, I think highly to be commended.

With this View (without speaking of the great Rewards payable by the Act of Parliament made for the Encouragement of the apprehending of Highwaymen) many eminent Gentlemen have heretofore greatly countenanced, commended and rewarded Men, who have professed and proved, that they have followed the Practice of *Theft-taking*; but how far the Monsters who are the immediate Occasion of this *Narrative*, and a great many more whom I could name, have departed from the above Rule; how little they have deserved to be countenanced by the aforesaid Gentlemen, the following Account will clearly demonstrate; and instead of being countenanced, my wonder indeed has been, at the length of their Reign, and the Success they have met with, especially as they have been long suspected, and some of those who are now in Custody twice detected (as will appear hereafter) yet never before this Time sufficiently prosecuted.

A very worthy and vigilant Magistrate for the County of *Middlesex*,* has published to the World, that *Thomas Blee*, the very Person who has been the Foundation of all my Enquiries, and the Means whereby I traced them to their Spring or Fountain Head; that this very *Thomas Blee*, who was Evidence against *Macdaniel* and the rest, came to Mr. *Fielding* soon after his Majesty's Proclamation of an *100l.* for the apprehending of Street-robbers was published; and offered to make an Information, nay brought an Information drawn up, in which it was set forth, that *Macdaniel* and others had obtained two hundred and eighty Pounds as Rewards for hanging two innocent Men,

* *Fielding's Plan to prevent Robberies*, pag. 6.

4 *A true and faithful Narrative, &c.*

Which Information, that worthy Magistrate thought fit to reject, very unfortunately for the Public; for had he attended to it, his great Wisdom and Penetration, must certainly have led him to a full Discovery of those Practices at that Time; and the unfortunate poor *Kidden* (whose Name I shall hereafter have Occasson to speak of) would have escaped their Clutches; but so it was, that these Villains were suffered still to go on in their wicked Schemes of swearing away the Lives of the innocent and defrauding the Public of the Rewards.

But there are Reasons besides this, which added to their Success, and contributed to the Duration of their Practices, first, the Fear that Mankind were under to Attempt to interpose, for it must certainly be very Destructive to the peace and quiet of every honest Man's mind to be liable to be harrassed with Law-Suits (as they could have Witnesses to prove any thing) or to be cut and hackt, or to lose his Life or Limbs by them, whenever they had an Opportunity; or to have his Character asperst by every Art that they or the Devil himself could invent, as there is an Example now before the Public in the Case of *Long Ned* and *Stanley*, *Thief-takers*.*

And secondly it is certain, that a great many, who it is presumed, had it in their Power to detect them, got Money by them, and therefore would not be diligent to Discover their wicked Schemes.

But to proceed. In tracing their Transactions, I find, that various have been the Projects by them made use of to accomplish their Designs; and sometimes they have been hardy enough to swear a Robbery against one or more Lads, who never were near the Place they swore them to be at; as was the Case of *Alexander* and *Pritchard*, and of *Baily* and *Swannick*, the one being

* See the Session Paper for May, 1755.

ing almost 20 Years ago, the other 8, which will be inserted in the Course of this *Narrative*; but as *Berry* and his Companions were then detected, it made them more wary, and they found it necessary always to get the Victims to the Place under some Pretence or other, and then they could swear the Robbery whether any was done or not. In order thereto they used to employ a Person of some Art and a Confederate of theirs, to introduce himself into the Company of those unfortunate and thoughtless poor Creatures (desperate and artful Villains they seldom meddling with) and who had been tried for small Offences at the *Old Baily* and acquitted.

At this Place it was, that the *Thief-takers* constantly attended, that they might have an Opportunity of fixing their Eyes upon and becoming perfectly acquainted with their Mark, the Wretch whom they had pointed out for Destruction; whence well might it become a saying, when one of those poor Creatures was discharged from the *Old Baily*, that they should be sure of him again in a Sessions or two, for it was impossible to escape the Snares laid for them: The Mark fixt, this Agent or Confederate of the *Thief-takers* or *Thief-makers*, which you please to call them, being well instructed, gets himself into the unhappy Creature's Company, treats them with Victuals and Drink, and afterwards they take an airing together in the Evening, and himself commits a Robbery on any Person that shall happen to come in his way, sometimes with, and sometimes without the Knowledge of him, or them who are to be sworn against; the Robbery being done, the Confederate draws his Companion to a certain Place, (if in *Black Boy-alley* the better, that Spot being famous for Thieves at that Time) or to some Lodging, as before agreed on, where the rest of the *Thief-takers* at proper Time come and apprehends them together, their own Confederate and all; to whom they
appear

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appear to be entire Strangers, and they are all carried before a Justice, where they have Art enough to get their own Companion admitted an Evidence, and the next Sessions, which is generally in a Day or two, he, they, and the Prosecutor, whom they take Care to find out, convicts the unhappy Wretch; and the Evidence Confederate, comes in for Part of the Reward, and then sets up for a *Thief-taker* himself, and employs others in the Post he has gone through; this is quite a different Derivation of a *Thief-taker* to that which some People deduce them from, and indeed different from what some of them really are; for on Enquiry, I find, that several of those who were tried and found guilty of the Rescue at the *Gatehouse*, and sentenced to undergo three Years Imprisonment in *Newgate* (where no doubt they received a good Education) did, after their Times were expired, set up for themselves, and follow the Trade of *Thief-taking*.*

But to proceed. I find many Instances where sometimes two, three, or four Boys have been drawn in to be present at a sham House-breaking, and then apprehended by the *Thief-takers*; the Confederate (as is agreed turns Evidence) convicts the others of a Burglary, and gets forty Pounds apiece for the Number of Convicts; and this he does with such Artfulness as to deceive the Court; to whom they all appear to be Strangers.

Some of these unhappy Creatures have been trepanned by remarkable Goods being put in a Window, some by a Pocket-piece, or other Pieces of Money being mark'd and put in a Till; to either of which the Decoy-duck, as I may call him, leads his Companion, takes the Goods and then carries them to an appointed Place to dispose of the Things stolen, where he knows they are to be stopt. And in order to lay this

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* See Sessions Paper Feb. 1750.

Contrivance under a still stronger covering, the Apprehender advertiseth in some one or more of the public Papers, such and such Goods, with such Marks, stopt; in order as he would have it thought, to come at the Owner, though himself and the Goods and the Owner, were all perfectly well acquainted before.

This hath generally had the Effect desired, viz. to make the Case of him who has stopt the Goods appear clear and fair in the Eyes of the Court. And in order more surely to prevent a Discovery of such wicked Machinations, those Exploits were generally performed a Day or two before the Sessions or Assizes (as I have just now noticed) which made it next to impossible for the Friends of those Victims (if they had any) to Discover the Contrivance until too late. As for what the poor Creatures themselves said, it stood for nothing, altho' they loudly declared their Innocence, and with their dying Breath would acknowledge they ought to die for the Sins of an ill spent Life, but protested their being innocent of the Fact for which they suffered.

I find likewise, as they advanced in their Practice, they made Improvements, and as it sometimes became a Difficulty to get an Agent or Deceit-duck that would venture to put his Life in the Power of the Law, for fear that after the Robbery was done (which at first was done on a Stranger) some other Persons, not in the Secret, might apprehend them first, and then the Agent might be hanged for Company; and an other Inconveniency attended it, which was, that the Prosecutor or Person robbed, came in for Part of the Reward; therefore to remedy that, one of their own Confederates was to be the Person robbed, and the Agent was to draw in one, two, or more to take a walk under different Pretences;
and

and then to rob his Acquaintance, who was placed there on Purpose, with some remarkable Goods; this done, the *Thief-takers* were to apprehend those that were to be hanged for it, but the Agent was to escape: And whether those thus decoyed, consented to the Robbery or not, it was sufficient that they were present, and the *Thief-takers* could swear the rest. And it was always agreed, that if the Agent or Decoy-duck was taken up by any Information of the others in Custody, which indeed they took the best Care they could to prevent, for the said Agent never let his Companions know the right Place he lived at; but if by Chance it did so happen, then the Prosecutor on being sent for was to declare on Oath (if needful) that he was not the Person that robbed him, and therefore he must of course be discharged, and the Person who accused him incur an increase of apparent Guilt, for accusing an innocent Man: all that he could say to the contrary gaining no Belief.

The Reader will perhaps think I have charged those Wretches with Crimes that no Man could, however degenerated, be guilty of; and be apt to think with the old *Romans*, who, if I am not mistaken, had no Law to punish a Son for killing his Father, because they did not think that any Son could be so wicked; but when they shall read the following Matters of Fact, they will then conclude, that I have not said more of them than they have been guilty off. I shall now enter upon the particular Account of those notorious Wretches MACDANIEL, BERRY, SALMON, EAGAN, and *Mary Jones*, who are the immediate Occasion of this Narrative.

Sunday, August 4, 1754, having received Information from Mr. *Henry Sargent*, one of the Constables of the Parish of *Greenwich*, that he had been to convey to *Maidstone-goal*, *John Ellis* and *Peter Kelley*,

Kelley, committed by *Joseph Bell*, Esq; for robbing one *James Salmon*, a Breeches-maker on the Highway, in the Parish of *St. Paul, Deptford*, in the County of *Kent*, in Company with one *Thomas Blee*, not then apprehended; a Description of whom, *Mr. Sargent* had taken from *Kelley*, in his way to Goal, with Directions where to find him the said *Blee*, viz. near *Mr. Dickenson's* Brew-house in *Black Boy-alley*; but which Directions afterwards appeared to be false, *Blee* having given it to the said *Ellis* and *Kelley*, that they nor no one else by their Directions, should find the right Place of his Abode.

Mr. Sargent told me likewise at the same Time, that as soon as he came back from *Maidstone*, one *Ralph Mitchell* (a Man eminent in the Thief-taking Way, and a particular acquaintance of *Macdaniel*) very officiously came in his Way, and to whom *Mr. Sargent* shewed the Description of *Blee*, and told him it would be a good Jobb for him to apprehend the said *Blee*; *Mitchell* seemingly embraced the offer, took the Direction, and promised to use his Endeavours to apprehend him, and went away, but returned in a short Time, and asked *Mr. Sargent* who the People were that took *Ellis* and *Kelley* (though it is presumed he well knew) to which *Sargent* replied, he did not remember his or their Names; on which *Mitchell* said, was it *Macdaniel*? And being answered in the Affirmative, he replied, that he would have nothing to do with it, returned the Papers, and went his way.

N.B. This was on *Saturday, August 3*, and as I afterwards found, *Mitchell* dined with *Macdaniel* on the *Sunday* (*Blee* being present) and on the *Monday Morning* came and told me that he had been the Day before to look for *Blee* but could not find him, for that he was run away.

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This Discourse with *Sargent* being ended, I asked him why he himself did not go and take him, for that I thought he ought to be taken by somebody? His answer was; *Blackboy-alley* was a very dangerous Place for any Man to go into, and that he did not like to be a *Thief-taker*, or Words to that Purpose, and that he would have nothing to do with it: On which I proposed going myself if he would go with me, this he readily agreed to, and as we had both Business in *London* the next Day, being *Monday*, we agreed to meet in *West-Smithfield*; where being met, and *Sargent's* Business not being done, I undertook to go and find the Prosecutor; who, according to the account given of himself when he entered into Recognizance, and of which I had taken care to inform myself at *Greenwich*, was, that he was a Leather-dresser and Breeches-maker, and lived on *Saffron-hill* (which proved afterwards to be false, agreeable to what I have before intimated, viz. that it was always their Practise never to give the right place of their Abode) I went, not doubting but that I should find him, and that he was a Man of Credit.

But after making the strictest Enquiry that could be made about *Saffron-hill*, *Flatten-wall*, and places adjacent; and amongst all the Breeches-makers and Leather-dressers thereabouts, I found he did not live, neither was he known there; at last I was informed that a Breeches-maker lived in *Shoe-lane*, to which place I went and found him; I informed him that I had got some Account of *Blee*, the third Person that robbed him, and that if I took the said *Blee*, I should send for him to Prosecute. He seemed, as I thought, much confounded and trembled, but said he would go with me to take him, but did not say he knew him: I have supposed since, that
if

if we had seen *Blee*, he would have said that it was not he that robbed him, and therefore he must be set at Liberty; however, *Salmon* and I went together to *Sargent* in *Smithfield*, and from thence, going toward *Black-boy-alley*, I thought it would not be proper for *Salmon* to go with us, I therefore left him at a public House in *Chick-lane*, and went into *Black-Boy-alley* to enquire for *Blee*; and altho' the whole Affair looked very mysterious, yet I did not suspect *Salmon* at that Time: But after making all the Enquiry there, and in places adjacent, that Prudence directed; I was led by Providence to a public House on *Saffron-hill*, near the End of *Chick-lane*; and asking the Landlord if he knew one *Thomas Blee*, he answered yes, and that he lived or lodged in *Scroop's-court* in *Holborn*, with one *Macdaniel*, and was often in his company.

On which it immediately struck me, that as *Macdaniel* apprehended *Ellis* and *Kelly*, and was thus intimately acquainted with *Blee*, the Person that robbed with *Ellis* and *Kelly*, it must be a contrived Robbery, and done on purpose to Convict *Ellis* and *Kelly*; in order to get the Reward given by Act of Parliament.

This and the other Circumstances already mentioned, concurred to confirm me in this Opinion; to which I subjoined, that the Place where the Robbery was committed, was just within the Limits of the *Greenwich* Subscription, which would entitle them to 40*l.* extraordinary. On this I concluded it would not be Proper to go to *Macdaniel* to ask for *Blee*, nor yet to have any thing more to say to *Salmon* the prosecutor, excepting the telling of him, that we could not find *Blee*. Indeed I thought I had said too much to him already, however, it had this good Effect when *Blee* was afterwards taken privately, these *Thief-takers* could not believe it, because *Salmon*

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was not sent for, and they concluded nobody else could swear to him.

Thus we thought it would be an Instance of utmost Prudence to counteract those vilest of Villains, still using our constant Endeavours privately to take *Blee*, in order, if possible, to come at a full Discovery of the Truth of this Affair. This was, as I have already said, *Monday August 5*, and Mr. *Sargent* and I agreed to meet again on the *Wednesday* following, for that purpose; of which we acquainted *Thomas Warren* another Constable of *Greenwich*, who also went with us on that Day. I endeavoured likewise to furnish myself with a Warrant against *Blee*, but in vain, *Ellis* and *Kelly's* Account of him not being upon Oath, and after making great Search and Enquiry for the said *Blee*, and not being able to find him, and having no Description but that given of him by *Ellis* and *Kelly*, and we having Reason to think he had altered his Dress, I determined to get the Assistance of a Man in the Neighbourhood, who upon Enquiry, I found to know him, in order for him to shew us the said *Blee*, which on my mentioning my Request to the Man, he readily promised, and advised us to come again the next Day, which we did, being *Thursday* the 8th, but our Friend was not able to perform his Promise; and after spending that Day to no Purpose, our Agent advised us to come again the next Morning very early, for he said he had seen him, but as he was a sort of a *Thieftaker*, and as there were so many of them thereabouts, and particularly *Macdaniel*, for his Part he was afraid to meddle with them; but as he had promised to shew *Blee* to us, he would if he could.

Meeting thus with so many Discouragements, it began to stagger some of our Resolutions, and particularly Mr. *Sargent*, who thought our Friend had betrayed us, therefore declared he would go out

no more after him, but I persisting that if nobody else would I would go by myself, so long as I had the least Hopes of finding him; in this I was seconded by Mr. *Warren*, who said he would bear me Company.

We agreed to meet at *Deptford Upperwater-gate*, at four o'Clock next Morning, it being near twelve when we parted that Night; being met as per Agreement, we proceeded to our Friend in *Field-lane*, and from thence with him to hunt after *Blee*, first, to *Saffron-bill*, then to *Hatton-wall*, *Hatton-garden*, *Holborn-bridge*; and from thence as we were going towards *Billings-gate* as the last place we could go to; in *Newgate-street* our Friend saw him, at the other End of the Street, coming towards us, who after pointing him out to me, retired up a Court, and we kept on our way until we met with and took him the said *Blee*, who, as I expected would, and who accordingly did, with the utmost Readiness make a full and clear Discovery of all those secret Contrivances made use of to seduce *Ellis* and *Kelley* to be Parties in committing a Robbery, and afterwards to betray them and share the Rewards; which will appear more fully in the Informations hereunto annexed. As soon as we had taken him we made directly for the Water-side, took Boat, and went thro' Bridge to *Greenwich*, and by the back ways to the Watch-house, where we put him in the back part, as the most secret and secure, until we could get him examined before Justice *Bell*; who was very ready and willing to give us all the Assistance in his Power to forward the Discovery of so uncommon a scene of Villany; but as the Information itself will be incerted amongst the rest of the Informations of all the other Witnesses, which I propose to give the Public, it sufficeth in this Place to say, that *Blee* accused *John Berry*, *Stephen Mac-daniel*, *James Egan*, and *James Salmon*, as the sole Contrivers

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contrivers of this Robbery, to destroy *Jabu Ellis* and *Peter Kelly*, in order to get the Reward. Here I cannot help taking Notice, in Justice to *Blee*, in order that the Reader may give him some Credit, that, wicked and abandoned as his past Life has been, I never yet, upon the strictest Enquiry, have had the least Reason to suspect his Veracity in any Part of his Discoveries.

After *Blee's* Information was taken against those Villains, great Doubts arose as to the Manner of Proceeding against them, and there appeared a great likelihood of much Difficulty, and very great Expence to bring the Offenders to Punishment: This did not deter us from being resolved to do the best we could to punish such notorious Offenders; and therefore *Henry Sargent*, *Thomas Warren* and myself, agreed to assist each other to apprehend and prosecute those Monsters; but, as the Gentlemen of the *Greenwich* Subscription were intended to be cheated by this wicked Scheme; I did apply myself to some of them, with a Desire that they would be pleased to take this Prosecution into their own Hands, and employ a fit Person to conduct it, as the Expence and Difficulties attending it, appeared much too great for private People to bear; but that was declined, and I was left to struggle with those Difficulties in the best Manner I could, or wholly to desist, and leave such Villany to remain unpunished, and the Perpetrators of it to the repetition of their old Practices; this I was determined not to do, and had resolved if all the World forsook me, to rely upon that Providence which brought me into this Affair, to conduct me to the End of it.

During this Time, *Blee* by his own desire, and for the better preventing *Berry*, *Maddaniel*, &c. from knowing that he was taken, was kept very private for the first two Days, in the back Part of the Watch-house, and it was purposely given

out

out that the Person so confined there, was only taken up for a Bastard-Child.

Sunday intervening, I took Horse, being determined to find out by every Method in my Power, whether all that *Blee* had said and proposed to give in Information, was true, for altho' *Blee* was strictly charged by Justice *Bell* to say nothing but the Truth, yet I was willing to know how far that could be confirmed by other People, therefore I went to *Kent-street*, and to several other Parts of *London* for Intelligence, and found to my Satisfaction that every Circumstance corroborated. I was likewise determined to go to *Tottenham-High-cross*, to know if the twenty Pounds Reward had been paid by the Gentlemen there, for the apprehending of one *Joshua Kidden* mentioned in *Blee's* farther Information, to be a contrived Robbery as this was: I was directed to a gentleman in the Commission of the Peace in that Neighbourhood, and the Treasurer of that Subscription*, to whom I related all that I knew concerning the Robbery committed by *Ellis*, *Kelly*, and *Blee*: and all the Persons concerned therein; and all that *Blee* said relating to the unfortunate *Kidden*, and the Difficulties I must meet with in proceeding against those Persons. That Gentleman was pleased to tell me, that he and the rest of those in the Subscription, did suspect when it was too late, that they were imposed on in that unfortunate Man's Case, and therefore he did enquire thoroughly into this Affair, and to do him justice, gave me great Assistance with his Advice throughout the whole Prosecution.

Hereupon I returned Home greatly satisfied with that Day's Journey; and the next day being *Monday August the 12th*, Warrants were granted

* A Reward of 20*l.* for the taking of *Thieves* in *Tottenham* Division.

granted to me by Justice Bell against *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Eagan*, and *Salmon*, for being Accessaries before the Fact, in the aforesaid Robbery committed on *Salmon*; and *Blee*, was committed to *Maidstone-goal* to give Evidence against them, but I took care not to send him, but still kept him secret. These Warrants were not to be served until after *John Ellis* and *Peter Kelley* were tried, and then great Care was to be taken not to let them (the *Thief-takers*) escape: This Method I determined to pursue, but was very apprehensive, that if *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Salmon*, *Eagan*, or any of their Friends should hear that *Blee* was taken, they would none of them appear at the Assizes; and particularly *Macdaniel*, who had evaded being bound over to prosecute, and *Berry*, who was no Evidence; for *Salmon*, and *Eagan's* Evidence, as they could swear strongly, strengthened by Mr. *Sargent's* producing the Goods, would be sufficient to convict the Lads without the two aforementioned. All those Circumstances gave me great Suspicion and Uneasiness, for fear they should hear that *Blee* was taken, and should all run away.

Now, though we had kept *Blee* very secret, yet we found it was talked of, and some of the *Thief-takers* had actually been at *Greenwich* to enquire after him, and said they heard that *Cox* had taken him; on which we removed him in the Night, from out of the back part of the Watch-house into Mr. *Warren's* Garret, and caused it to be reported the next Day, that the Man for the *Barstard-Child* had made it up with the Parish, and was gone about his Business.

I likewise made use of several Contrivances to be informed if they (the *Thief-takers*) intended to go down to the Assizes, and particularly I found

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But the Person (a Drummer in one of the Regiments of Guards) who happened to be at the *Black Spread Eagle* in *Kent-street*, when *Ellis* and *Kelley* were taken, and who was sent by *Macdaniel* to fetch the Prosecutor, and who went with them, together with *Macdaniel*, *Salmon*, and *Eagan*, before Justice *Bell*, at *Greenwich*; but who was no ways concerned with them in their wicked Practices. And I found they had endeavoured to put him off from going down to the Assizes, least he should come in for Part of the expected Reward; him I told, that should *Ellis* and *Kelley* be convicted there would be a Reward for taking them; but that I did likewise believe the Prosecutors intended to deprive him of his Share of it, however, if he would be ruled by me I would see that he should have Justice done him, but that he must keep it Secret, that he had seen me: I likewise concealed from him the whole of the Discovery I had made, I then sent him (properly instructed) to *Salmon*, *Macdaniel*, &c. to find out if they intended to go down to the Assizes, and ordered him to offer to go with them, or by any other means to find out their Intentions.

He came back that same *Monday Night*, *Aug.* 12, and told me that he had been at *Macdaniel's*, *Salmon's*, &c. and was told that they were gone into the Country; and indeed that same Night, *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, and *Ralph Mitchell* were at *Greenwich*, making all the Enquiry they could after *Blee*, but could not find him, and therefore fondly hoping (as I presume) that he had fled, on receiving Intimation of our hunting after him, they of their own accord proposed to *Henry Sergeant* (the Constable that had the Goods of *Salmon* in his Custody) that they would go down by Water and meet him at *Maidstone*.

The next Day being *Tuesday*, *August* 13, the Day that

that the Judges went down, I sent the Drummer to *London* again, who on his return gave me good Reason to think that they the *Thief-takers* were certainly gone down; and therefore that Night, Mr. *Sargent*, Mr. *Warren* and myself, settled the Part that each was to Act, viz. that *Sargent* and I were to go to *Maidstone* the next Day, that *Sargent* should immediately join Company with them (the *Thief-takers*) and now and then start a little Dispute about the expected Reward; that Mr. *Warren* should set out the next Night with *Blee* and some Evidence, such as might be necessary to strengthen *Blee's* Testimony (it being intended at that Time to apprehend those *Thief-takers* and to have them tried at the then Assizes) and that they should go by a private Road, called *Rotham-road*, and stop short of the Town of *Maidstone*, and send me private Notice when they had arrived there. As for my Part, I was to appear to these *Thief-takers* quite unconcerned, but privately to endeavour to forward their Bill of Indictment, when they should apply for it, in order to bring *Ellis* and *Kelley* the speedier to their Trial, that the *Thief-takers* might be the sooner apprehended: all which succeeded, for *Maidaniel* happening to be in the Street, saw Mr. *Sargent* and myself come into *Maidstone* on Horseback, and doubtless observing no Person with us, nor yet finding *Blee* in the Goal, the Goaler not knowing any thing of his standing committed (for I had kept his Commitment in my Hands from the 9th of *August* to this Time, and him very carefully concealed.) Here it may not be amiss to observe, the unsearchable Ways of Providence, which would not suffer such execrable villiany to remain any longer concealed, for that which they thought their greatest Security proved their Destruction, viz. their always contriving to play off those Schemes, just before the Sessions or Assizes, that no Discovery might be made before the Business was done, and which

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was now the very cause that flung them into the Hands of *Justice*; for had the Time been longer before the Trials came on, we in all Probability could not have kept *Blee* concealed.

But to proceed. They confidently applied for their Bill of Indictment against *Ellis* and *Kelley* on *Wednesday* Night, and it was found by the grand Jury on *Thursday* morning. It added greatly to my Satisfaction to find *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Salmon*, and *Eagan* were all there; and all on the back of the Bill, except *Berry*, whose Person at that Time I did not know; and as I intended to apprehend him whilst the others were giving their Evidence in Court, I therefore introduced myself into the Company of *Macdaniel*, and by that means to *Berry*, and to *Salmon* and *Eagan*, and kept them Company with Mr. *Sargent* part of that Afternoon.

I received Notice likewise, that Mr. *Warren*, *Blee*, and the Evidence were arrived at a small public House near the Town, where they had concealed themselves, and waited for further Directions: I found moreover, that the Trial of *Ellis* and *Kelley* would be the second after Dinner; and as *Berry* was not on the back of the Bill, I concluded, that he would not be in Court; and thinking I should want Help, I went to Mr. *Warren*, and we concluded, that he, *Warren*, should leave *Blee* under the care of the Coachman, and come himself to our Assistance, in the dusk of the Evening: and as I suspected, so it happened; for when the Evidence against *Ellis* and *Kelley* stood ready to be called into Court, it being very dark, *Berry* shuffled about from Place to Place, and mixed so often with the Crowd that I lost him once; but soon found him again, yet was resolved not to take him until the others were safe in Court, which soon after happened; and then I went to him in the upper Court, where he seemed to have concealed himself, and asked him to

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go and drink, which he complied with, and we went to the *Bell-Imm*, and Mr. *Warren* following us close (for that Purpose) we secured him without any Noise, and set a Friend of mine to keep him safe and private, with positive Orders not to suffer him to send a Message to any one before our Return, which was strictly complied with.

This done, *Warren* and I went into Court, to be ready with *Sargent*, in order to secure the other three, when convenient; and I placed myself for that Purpose close behind *Macdaniel*, who wanted (as soon as he had given Evidence) to go out of Court, but I prevented that under Pretence that I could not make way for him on Account of the Throng, being determined not to let him get out; and being likewise unwilling (if I could help it) to Discover what I wanted, lest the Jury on their perceiving it should be prejudiced against the Evidence, and acquit the Lads, which would have spoiled the whole Affair. We continued in that Posture until all the Evidence was gone thorough, and then the Cryer of the Court bid them all go down; which as they were preparing very readily to obey, forced me to seize on *Macdaniel*, and with the Help of Mr. *Sargent* and Mr. *Warren*, we secured not only him, but *Salmon* and *Eagan* also; and Mr. *Warren*, whilst I held *Macdaniel's* Right-hand, disarmed him of his long and dangerous Knife, which *Blee* had given me an Account of before: I still concealed the Reason of apprehending them, until the Judge had given his Charge to the Jury, and they had brought *John Ellis* and *Peter Kelley* in Guilty; and then I acquainted his Lordship, that I had Warrants from Justice *Bell* against *Stephen Macdaniel*, *James Salmon*, and *James Eagan*, the three Persons whom I had presumed to take in Court; and likewise against *John Berry*, whom I had also just taken, and put in safe Custody, for being Accessaries before

before the Fact, for that same Robbery; that is, for contriving it, and directing how it should be done, in order to draw in *Ellis* and *Kelley*, and to get the Reward. I then produced the Warrants; and after they were read in Court, and some Questions asked by his Lordship, he was pleased to order me to take Care of the Prisoners for that Night (it being very late) and ordered the Officers of the Court to Assist me; and on my Application, he likewise ordered me to take Care of, and keep (till the Prisoners were tried) the two pair of leather Breeches, the Handkerchief, Knife and Fork, Tobacco-box, and Pocket-piece, which *Salmon* had been robbed off, in order to produce them on their Trial: the Tobacco-box and Pocket-piece being *Macdaniel's*, as will hereafter appear.

The next Day (being *Friday* the 16th) I carried them before *Abraham Tilghman*, Esq; and a great Number of other Justices who were assembled there on Account of the Assizes; and he committed *James Salmon*, to the County-goal for a Misdemeanor in contriving to have himself robbed, in order to Defraud; and he was told, that he wasailable, but it was put down in his Commitment that he should give me timely Notice, of the Names of his Bail, and where they lived, that I might enquire into their Character and make my Objections to them, if I had any. *Berry* and *Eagan* were committed for being Accessaries in the aforesaid Robbery: and *Macdaniel* was committed (but according to his Request) for further Examination, he declaring himself capable to make some Discovery, which would be of Benefit to the Public: Which notable Discovery (as I was afterwards informed) was, that he *Macdaniel* would have made out, that *Berry* wrote Copies of those threatening Letters to the Earl

of Leicester, Post-master-general relating to the taking down of *Stockdale* and *Jackson*, who were executed the Summer before this Discovery was made, for robbing and shooting the Penny Post-man near *Enfield*, and afterwards hung in Chains. Which Letters had induced the said Earl of Leicester to publish five hundred Pounds Reward for the Discoverer of the Authors, and their Design was afterwards to get a Robbery sworn against any Person of a bad Character whom they should see on; and being provided with a Warrant and Constable, they should in the hurry of apprehending him convey the said Copies of the two Letters wrote with the same Hand, privately into the Man's Pocket, and afterwards bid the Constable search him; and he finding them so naturally, they were to swear, he on whom the Letters were found wrote them, and by that Means to get the five hundred Pounds.

This Information of *Macdaniel's* had the effect to induce the Government to send down the Solicitor of the *Post-Office*, to examine him, but they did not proceed any further, and *Macdaniel* was committed as an Accessary, as *Berry* and *Eagan* had been before.

These Men being discovered and apprehended, as I have related, August 25, 1754, and not tried until the 1st of March 1755, that Time was employed (as Opportunity would permit) to find out and collect together, by *Ble's* Information and otherwise, proper Evidence, to support and to corroborate the whole of *Ble's* Testimony; for as he was an Accomplice, his own Evidence unsupported would not convict them; and therefore I intend to lay before the Public (as their Trials are now over) the Information of all the Witnesses against them, as I took them from their own Mouths long before the Trial; and from which the Briefs for Council were drawn, and which

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Informations are all signed by the Parties themselves.

But before I proceed, I hope it may not be disagreeable to my Readers, to let them know the Particulars of the Attempt of *Macdaniel* to break out of *Maidstone Goal*, which seems in the Thread of this Discourse to come most properly into this Place, and which are as follows :

Macdaniel being confined in the same Ward with one *John Constable* (under Sentence of Death for a Highway Robbery, but reprieved) and another Prisoner ; meditated an Escape, and that it might be kept a Secret, *Macdaniel* thought proper to swear his Companions on a Bible which they had in the Ward, the Scheme being agreed on, *Constable* who was a Clock or Watch-maker, knew what tools were best adapted to cut their irons off, and where they were to be had, and having an Acquaintance in *London*, one *William Savage* a Shoemaker, and a young Fellow just out of his Apprenticeship, him they sent for, under Pretence of having an Affair of Consequence to communicate ; and on his coming to them, they gave him Money and proper Instructions to go to *Foster-lane, London*, to purchase three Spring-lasts in Frames, and two Files ; *Macdaniel* furnished him likewise with a great Coat, and a Letter to his dear and loving Wife, whom he purchased at a Price which we doubt not to have been the full Value of her ; to desire her to contribute something towards helping them to Horfes for the intended Escape ; but she not being over ready to comply, and the Goaler receiving some Intimation of what was intended, watched the Return of the Messenger so dexterously, that he surprized him in the Goal, with the Implements upon him ; for which he was tried and convicted, and afterwards transported ; and poor *Macdaniel* not only disappointed of his Hopes, but strongly ironed and closely confined for the future, both in *Maid-*
stone

24 *A true and faithful Narrative, &c.*

stone Goal and in Newgate, to which place he and the rest were afterwards removed by *Habeus Corpus*; to take their Trials at the Old Baily, upon the Statute of the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, c. 4. which says, *Every Person that shall maliciously Command, Hire, or Counsel any Person or Persons to commit, or do any Robbery, in or near any High-way, in this Realm of England, and be thereof convicted, shall not have Benefit of Clergy.*

And by the Statute of the 3d and 4th of William and Mary c. 4. which says, *That all and every Person or Persons, that shall Comfort, Aid, Abet, Assist, Counsel, Hire or Command any Person to Rob another, shall be excluded from the Benefit of their Clergy.*

This being the Law, the following Informations will shew how far the abominable Wretches whom we have under Consideration, are obnoxious thereto. Blee being foremost in the Class, we shall begin with him,

The Information of Thomas Blee, of the Parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, Breeches-maker, taken upon Oath before JOSEPH BELL, Esq; one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Kent is as follows :

Kent to wit,

THIS Informant saith, that about four Weeks since, or upwards, Stephen Macdaniel of Scroop's-Court, in the said Parish, of St. Andrew desired this Informant to give a good look-out, to get a Couple to go upon the Scamp; and that it should be twenty Pounds in his way: meaning, for this Informant to get, or intice into his Company two Lads, or Men, to Rob with him on the Highway, and afterwards to betray the said two Persons to the said Macdaniel, and share the Reward, which was to be expected upon their

their being convicted: and in order thereto, the said Macdaniel did frequently afterwards go with this Informant, into the adjacent Fields about the Town, to seek for such Persons as they should think fit for their said Purpose, but could not meet with any.

And this Informant saith, that he met the said Macdaniel, and John Berry of Hatton-wall, near Hatton-garden; James Salmon of Shoe-lane, London, Breeches-maker; and James Eagan of Drury-lane, London, Cordwainer; all of whom were present with, and did hear the said Macdaniel make the above Proposal to this Informant, at several different Times and Places in order to concert Means to put this their said Scheme into Execution.

And this Informant saith, that about a fortnight since, he met with John Ellis and Peter Kelley (now Prisoner in his Majesty's Goal at Maidstone, for a Highway Robbery) in Fleet-market; and as this Informant knew them to be Youths of bad Life and Conversation, and therefore judged them fit for the purpose, he joined with them in company; and after treating them with Liquor at divers times, he proposed to them to go to Deptford to steal some Linen, which they readily acquiesced in, and came to this Informant on the Thursday following, according to appointment for that Purpose; but this Informant put them off till the succeeding Monday, by the Direction of the said Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon and Eagan, who had all at different times seen the said Ellis and Kelley, and approved of them as fit for the Purpose, and judged that Monday would be the most proper Day to have the Robbery committed on, lest if the said Ellis and Kelley should be apprehended on Saturday, and should be detained any where near London, all that Day and Sunday, some Circumstances might appear to render their Scheme Abortive.

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*And this Informant saith, that he met the said Ellis and Kelley on the appointed Monday; and that in their Way to Deptford, he called at the Bell in the Burrough (as had been before agreed upon *) where was Berry and Salmon, whom he at that time took no Notice of.*

And this Informant saith, that as it had been concerted between them, the said Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon and Eagan; that the intended Robbery should be committed somewhere between New-crofs Turnpike and Deptford; in order to intitle them to the Reward given for apprehending High-way Robbers, by the Parish of East-Greenwich, and other adjoining Parishes in the said County; this Informant took the said Ellis and Kelly with him to a publick House, known by the Sign of the Ship, in Deptford aforesaid, where the said Berry and Salmon had also appointed that they would be; but on this Informant not seeing them there, after staying some Time, he left the said Ellis and Kelly at the Sign of the Ship aforesaid, and went out to look for the said Berry and Salmon; and having found the said Berry, he Berry counselled this Informant to return to the said Ellis and Kelley, and told him that Salmon should follow immediately: this informant obeyed the Order, and saith that the said Salmon did soon after come into the said Sign of the Ship, and called for some Beer, and staid there for near an Hour; during which Time, this Informant treated the said Ellis and Kelley with Bread and Cheese, and Beer and Gin; and upon the said Salmon's going away, which was in the Dusk of the Evening; this Informant, and said Ellis and Kelly immediately followed him, in order to Rob him in the first Convenient Place.

He

* This calling at the Bell had before been agreed upon, that Salmon and Berry might be sure their Scheme was carrying on and hastening to Maturity.

He further saith, that the said Salmon stood opposite to the four-mile Stone, between Deptford and New-cross Turnpike; under a Pretence to Urine, but in order that his Informant, and said Ellis and Kelley might overtake him the said Salmon, and Rob him there: and this Informant saith, that they did accordingly come up with the said Salmon there; and this Informant, without his, or the said Ellis or Kelley producing any Weapon, or making Use of any Menaces to the said Salmon, took from under the said Salmon's Arm, two Pair of Leather Breeches, which had been purposely marked with a particular Mark in the Pocket, or Waistband, and tied up in a Linen Handkerchief; which was also particularly marked at the Corners: and that the said Kelley took out of the said Salmon's Pocket, a clasp Knife and Fork, and an Iron Tobacco-box, which was the said Macdaniel's; but as it was a very remarkable one, he lent it to the said Salmon on that Occasion; and which had in it two Shillings and Six-pence in Silver, a Silver Pocket-piece, also purposely marked, with a Tool belonging to the said Eagan; and saith that they immediately upon this left the said James Salmon who had tamely submitted himself to be robbed, as had been agreed on, as aforesaid.

And this Informant saith, that after they had so robbed and left the said Salmon, as aforesaid, this Informant and said Ellis and Kelley went and lodged in Kent-street, Southwark as before agreed upon; and that this Informant early in the Morning, took the said Ellis and Kelley with him to the Sign of the Black-Spread-Eagle in Kent-street aforesaid; where this Informant had agreed with said Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon and Eagan, to bring them, in order that Ellis and Kelly might be there taken; and this Informant saith that about 7 o'Clock in the Morning of the said Day; the said Eagan came in as if by Accident, and this Informant told the said Ellis and

Kelly, that that man, meaning Eagan, dealt at Ragg-fair, and would probably buy the Breeches; and this Informant asked the said Eagan, if he would buy some Leather Breeches? and he, the said Eagan, agreed to give them five Shillings for them, and to bind the Bargain, the said Eagan, gave Kelly one Shilling Earnest.

Immediately after this, Eagan called for a Half-penny worth of Tobacco, and said he had lost his Box and wanted one, with an Intent that the said Ellis and Kelley should produce the Tobacco Box, which this Informant and they had robbed Salmon off; and which they did produce, and the said Eagan bought the same of them for a Pot of Two-penny.

And this Informant saith, that the said Eagan after Break-fasting with them went out, under Pretence of getting the rest of the Money to pay for the said Breeches; and this Informant some time afterwards followed him, under Pretence to get shaved, and went to another Ale-house in Kent-street, where he had agreed to meet the said Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon, and Eagan, whom he found there; and the said Macdaniel and Eagan immediately went and secured the said Ellis and Kelley; with all the Things of which the said Ellis and Kelley, and this Informant, had robbed the said Salmon of, as aforesaid, in their Custody, except the said Tobacco-Box, which the said Eagan had purchased of them as aforesaid.

And this Informant saith, that he hath at several times since been in Company with the said Macdaniel, Berry and Salmon, both together and separately, and discoursed with them about the said Robbery, and that they have all severally encouraged this Informant, and told him that should he be impeached or suspected, the said Salmon would not appear against him, and always express their Satisfaction of their Success in this Enterprize, promised to share the Reward usually allowed by Act of Parliament, and the Subscriptionary
Reward

Reward as aforesaid; among them the said Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon, Eagan and this Informant.

And lastly, this Informant saith, that the aforesaid Robbery was solely contrived with Intent to convict the said Ellis and Kelley, and to get the several Rewards as aforesaid,

Signed by

THOMAS BLEE.

Sworn the 13th of August 1754,

before Justice B E L L.

I judge it will not be disagreeable to my Readers, to find annexed hereunto some Particulars which for the sake of Brevity were omitted; or not fully enlarged upon in *Blee's* Information; but were afterwards taken from his own Mouth, viz. that after these *Thief-takers* alias *Thief-makers*, had concerted the Scheme for drawing in a couple of unthinking Youths to join in committing this sham Robbery; after *Blee* had pitched upon *Ellis* and *Kelley*, the two Lads we have been speaking of; *Eagan* had a Desire of going down the *Fleet-market* (a Place where they spent many of their idle Hours) that he might have Sight of them, which he did, and saw this Informant talking with them, and giving them some Half-pence, as had been before appointed to buy them some Gin: After which, this Informant and *Eagan* joined Company and went together to *Macdaniel's* Lodgings, where *Eagan* swore by the Great God, that they (meaning the Lads) would do very well.

Hereupon *Eagan* and *Berry* who was with the said *Macdaniel*, proposed that *Blee* should get the Lads into the *Artillery-Ground* that Afternoon, that he the said *Macdaniel*, and *Berry*, and *Salmon* also, might have sight of them: On which this Informant and *Berry* went to the *Plum-tree* in

Plum.

Plum-tree-court (a Passage leading out of *Shoe-lane* near unto *Holborn-bridge*), and beckoned to *Salmon* as they went by his Shop, who followed them there, and *Berry* told him that this Informant *Blee* had got two that he believed would do, that the said *Berry* was to have Sight of them in the *Artillery-ground* that Afternoon, and then would let them know further; after which this Informant parted from *Berry* and *Salmon*, and went in Company again with *Ellis* and *Kelly*, who on this Informant's proposing it, readily went with him to the *Artillery-ground*, where *Berry* and *Macdaniel* took a full View of them; and afterwards taking an Opportunity, told this Informant, that they would do very well for the Purpose of robbing *Salmon*, for that they had done over less than they before now, meaning *Newman* and *March*, *Berry* likewise gave this Informant Six-pence to treat them with, and bid them keep him Company and not lose them: but to sound them by saying he knew of a fine Parcel of *Lully*, the cant Word for Linen, at *Depford* to ask them to assist him and others, of whom mention will be made hereafter to steal it. This was done, because it was not thought proper, as yet, to propose to them to rob on the High-way; which, lest they should not consent to go purposely upon, was deferred till just the time that the Fact was to be committed.

One thing very remarkable happened whilst they were in the *Artillery-ground*, as this Informant saith, viz. there was a Hurley Burley of a Pick-pocket's being Duck'd, in the *Pyde-burse-yard*, which proved to be *John Ellis*; whereupon *Macdaniel* said to this Informant, he is our chief Man, go after him, see where he goes, be careful that you do not lose him: Whereupon the Mob being dispersed, this Informant went to him in order

order to cheer him a little, and again gave him Money to buy some Gin and Parted for that Night, and on *Friday* met him and *Kelley* again, and on *Saturday* did the same, and after parting with them, (and as it had been agreed that the intended Robbery should be committed on the *Monday* following) he this Informant was ordered by *Berry*, who gave him Six-pence for that Purpose, to go into *Kent-street* and look for, and fix on, some mean Ale-house as a proper Place to decoy the Lads too, after the Robbery should be done, in order to have them apprehended.

And he this Informant went, and found the *Black-spread-Eagle*, which he judged very fit for the Purpose, and reported it as such to *Berry* who approved thereof; and the next Morning being *Sunday*, he this Informant, met *Eagan* by accident, who told this Informant that he had seen *Berry*, who had ordered him the said *Eagan* to be at the *Black-spread-Eagle* on *Tuesday* Morning early, and gave him, this Informant, a Half-penny to buy him a Dram, and the same Day this Informant saw *Ellis* and *Kelly* and treated them, and fixed the next Day to go to *Deptford*, and agreed to meet on the Morning at six o'Clock in the *Fleet-market*, where they proceeded as hath already been set forth in this Informants Information.

This Informant went as had been agreed, to the *White-bear*, another public House in *Kent-street*, to give Notice that then was the Time to take *Ellis* and *Kelly*, but not finding *Macdaniel*, &c. there, he was beckoned by *Eagan*, to a public House over the way; to which he went up Steps, and that on the left Hand as you go in is a Box, where was present, *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Salmon* and *Eagan*, and they had had Beacon for Breakfast, that on *Macdaniel* and *Eagan*'s going away to take *Ellis* and *Kelley*, he, *Blee*, went towards the *Bo-rough*,

rough, and left *Salmon* and *Berry* there; and that he waited a considerable Time at the *Bell* in the *Borough* for *Berry*, who at last came, and they went home together: and going along, or whilst they were together, *Berry* told him the said *Blee*, that the said *Salmon* had refused to consent to be robbed for fear the two Lads should use him ill; unless he the said *Berry* would place himself near at hand, which he did, and actually was behind the four mile Stone whilst the Robbery was done, and asked the said *Blee* if he did not see him the said *Berry* there.

N. B. The four mile Stone is on the opposite side of the Road from the Footway, at about 70 yards Distance, near to which are Trees and Bushes, very convenient for that Purpose.

Blee further saith, that before the Robbery was done; by the Advice of *Macdaniel* and *Berry*, he suffered his Beard to grow very long, and *Berry* gave him an old great Coat and Wigg which made him look very old; but after that was over, by their Advice, he left off his great Coat, and Wig, and got clean shaved, and went in his Waistcoat; and *Macdaniel* gave him a *Cooper's* Apron, which he wore when taken; that the Night before he was taken he lay at *Berry's*, and asked him the said *Berry*, if he thought he might go out with Safety, and was answered yes, as it was so early in the Morning.

Signed,

THOMAS BLEE,

The

The Information of Mrs. Elizabeth Pragnal, who keeps the Ship Ale-house at Deptford, setteth forth:

THAT on the twenty-ninth of July last, three Men or Lads (whose Persons she very well remembers) and whose Names, as she now is informed, are Thomas Blee, John Ellis, and Peter Kelley, came to her Door, and called for a Pint of Beer, and sat on the Bench at the Door a considerable Time; she saith she had not a very good Opinion of them, which made her take the more Notice, being afraid they would go away without paying; but at last they came into the House and sat down in the Box, that she particularly noticed Thomas Blee, who had a long carrotty Beard, a Wig, and an old great Coat on; and who went out very often, under Pretence to make Water, and some times to enquire for some Man whom she did not know; but that soon after the last time he went out, in came a Man whose Person she likewise well remembers; and whose Name she now finds is James Salmon; he had a small bundle under his arm, he called for a Pint of Beer, and placed himself upon his Legs, for a considerable Time, by the side of the Dreffer, and right facing and very near to the said Blee, Ellis and Kelley, who at that time had got a Quart of Beer, and Bread and Cheese, before them.

The said Salmon, she saith, stood talking about going to London, and loytering away his time, sometimes sitting and sometimes standing, in all about an hour or upwards, until it was dark: She remembers that she was apprehensive he would ask for Lodging, and her Beds were all bespoke; she thought it very odd that a Man who was going to London, should stay, when he had no business so to do, till it was dark; however he went away with out asking for Lodging; and Thomas Blee, John Ellis and Peter Kelley

went soon after him; Blee first changing half a Crown to pay the Reckoning, and having each a Dram of Gin.

She saith, that the next Day John Ellis, and Peter Kelley were brought Prisoners to her House, by a Man whose Person she well remembers, and whose Name is Macdaniel.

At that Time she took the said Macdaniel to be a Constable; he brought the Lads into her House, and asked her if she did not remember them two Lads being there last Night? She answered, yes, very well; and that there was another with them, with a carrotty Beard; he then bid her look at the Man at the Door (which was Salmon) and see if she knew him, she answered, yes, very well; that he was there likewise, and that they went away all together, or very soon after each other.

There was with Macdaniel one whom she saith, she found to be a Drummer, and whom he the said Macdaniel bid to take Notice of what this Informant said; and saith that after this, they all went away together toward Greenwich.

Signed by

ELIZ. PRAGNAL.

The Information of James Cormack of the second Regiment of Guards, Drummer, setteth forth;

THAT on the 30th of July last, being then quartered at the Blackspread Eagle in Kent-street, he the said Cormack came down between eight and nine o'Clock in the Morning; and observed three Men or Lads, in the Box eating and drinking, whose Persons he very well remembers, and whose Names he finds to be Thomas Blee, John Ellis, and Peter Kelley.

After that they had done Eating, Thomas Blee (who had a long carrotty-Beard, and wore a stouch Hat,

Hat, a Wig, and a great Coat of a lightish colour) said he would go and get shaved, and immediately went away; after he had been gone eight or ten Minutes, or a little more, in came a Man in darkish Clothes, whose Name is Macdaniel, and laid hold of Kelley who sat in the Box next him; and said come out you Black-guard Dog, you Thief, &c. which Words made him, (this Informant) take Notice; and he then observed another Man, whose Name is James Eagan, on the farther side of the same Box, who did not seem to know Macdaniel; this made him, this Informant, ask what was the Reason that he abused the Lads in that manner? Macdaniel answered, he had got a Warrant against them for robbing a Man the Night before, just by the four-mile Stone near Deptford, and immediately charged this Informant to aid and assist him to secure them, on which (this Informant taking him to be a Constable) told him if that was the Case he would assist him, and did; and told him there was another, who was but just gone out: But Macdaniel replied, there was one after him, who would take him before long.

Macdaniel then searched Peter Kelley, and took from him a Silver Pocket-piece, one Shilling and a Clasp-knife; the Pocket-piece he shewed to this Informant, and bid him take Notice that it was marked in the Middle. He likewise searched John Ellis, but found nothing about him; he then tied the said Ellis and Kelley together.

During this Transaction the aforesaid James Eagan sat in the same Box opposite unto them, and I observed a check Handkerchief tied up with Something in it, lying on the Table by Eagan; Macdaniel laid hold of the said Handkerchief, and asked Eagan what he had got there? Eagan answered, it was his, he had bought it, and that he, Macdaniel, had nothing to do with it, they still appearing to be Strangers to each other.

Macdaniel then desired this Informant to go to the Elephant and Castle, and there, said he, you will find an elderly Man with a lightish coloured surtout Coat, and his own curled Hair, and another Man sitting along with him, in a Box on the left Hand as you enter the Door; my Business was, saith this Informant, to tell him, the said elderly Man, to come to him, Macdaniel immediately: This Informant went as directed, and saw the man he was sent for, who proved to be Salmon; and likewise saw Berry sitting in the left Hand box, whose Person he very well remembers. And this Informant said to Salmon, I believe you are the Man I want; there is a Man at the Black-spread-Eagle that wants you; and Berry made answer, aye, aye, go along with him, he did so, and in going along I asked him what was the Matter? He told me he had been robbed the Night before, near the four-mile Stone, by Deptford; of one Guinea in Gold, two Shillings and Six-pence in Silver, a Silver Pocket-piece, a Tobacco-box, a Clasp-Knife and Fork, two pair of Leather Breeches tied up in a Linen Handkerchief, and if they were his, he said, they were marked with I. S. and the figure 4 under the right Hand Pocket, and the Handkerchief was marked with an eyelet-hole at each Corner.

Hearing of this, saith this Informant, when I came into the House, I desired them to open the Bundle, and look at the Breeches, which I found to be marked as he Salmon had told me; and could not help thinking but that every thing came out wonderfully pat; but had no Suspicion of any underhand Villainy at that time.

Macdaniel then said, we must go before a Justice of the Peace at Greenwich; and charged him, this Informant to go with him, to aid and assist him. Going along the Road, Macdaniel seemed to pity the Lads, and said, one of them has Money in his Stockings, but continued he, let them keep it, poor Things, they will want it.

Salmon

Salmon and Eagan followed behind, saith this Informant, till we came to the five Bells on Deptford Road, there we had a Pot of Beer, and Macdaniel asked the Lads if that was the House they were drinking at the Night before, they said no, it was the Ship at Deptford: on which Macdaniel desired this Informant to take Notice of what they said, and not to be mealy-mouthed when before the Justice.

When we came to the Ship at Deptford, Macdaniel said unto this Informant, Ellis and Kelley should go with him into the House, and Salmon and Eagan should stay at the Door, when within the House he called for a Pint of Beer, and asked the Landlady if she saw them two Lads, (meaning Ellis and Kelley) there the Night before? She said yes, and another along with them, with a carryty Beard; he then asked her if she saw that Man at the Door (meaning Salmon) at the same time, and she said yes, and that they all went away pretty near together, just as it was dark: Macdaniel desired this Informant to take particular Notice of what this Landlady said, and again bid him be sure not to be mealy-mouthed before the Justice, but to tell all he heard.

Macdaniel had told the Lads going along the Road, that if they would behave well he would untie their Hands, which he did; and the said Ellis and Kelley said if they must go to a Goal, they should be glad to go to a Bridewell which they named, but which Name this Informant hath forgot; and Macdaniel said they should go there, and he would do as much for them as lay in his Power; and that they should go up by water, and advised them by all Means to confess before the Justice, and he said, it would be the better for them; and if they did not, they would certainly be hanged.

This Informant farther saith, when we were in the justices Clerk's Office, at Greenwich, the said Clerk proposed to bind Macdaniel to prosecute, but he evaded that

that, by saying that he had a small Estate left him, and should be obliged to be another way at the Time of the Assizes, and therefore desired that he might not be bound, whereupon this Informant saith, that he this said Informant, together with Salmon was bound to give Evidence.

After the Lads were committed, and as we were going home towards London, Eagan was full of his Discourse to this Informant, to put him off from going down to Maldstone to Prosecute, or give Evidence, and said by the great God, and sweet Jesus, that he himself would never appear against them; for that it had cost him three Shillings already, and that the Breeches and they might go to the Devil for him; on which this Informant observed, that as he this Informant was bound to Prosecute, he must appear; but Eagan said that was nothing at all, it was only removing into another Parish, and this Informant saith, that he never could get the Parties readily to consent for him to go down along with them; and when he went to their Houses, and found that they were gone into the Country, could not learn what Country they were gone into, or that any body knew of Salmon's being robbed.

And this Informant saith, that when he did, by the Advice of Joseph Cox go to Macdaniel, altho' he was bound, yet they the aforesaid Macdaniel, Salmon, and Eagan, had applied for, and had got the Bill of Indictment against Ellis and Kelley, without his Name on the back thereof, and altho' Macdaniel had bid him this, Informant, take so much Notice of what was done or said, before they went to the Justice.

This Informant moreover saith, that being at Maldstone, he found that the House where the said Macdaniel and the rest of those who intended to prosecute had put up at, was the Cock, where he went; and that Berry asked him how he did, to whom this Informant, not immediately recollecting him, replied, Sir, you have the

the Advantage of me, for I do not fully remember where I have seen you; he said his Name was Berry, and asked this Informant if he did not remember the time that he went to the Elephant and Castle in Kent-street, for Mr. Salmon? this Informant replied yes, and said you are the Gentleman who sat in the left Hand Box, as you go in at the Door; Berry answered that he was the same Person, and asked this Informant what he thought of Ellis and Kelley, whether he was of Opinion they would be hanged or not? And this Informant answered, he thought they would be condemned; and Berry said he thought so too, for that every thing was very plain against them; and said he, if they are not cast, I believe I must go on the Highway myself, or else beg my way home: And this Informant saith, that he did not know at that time any thing of the Conspiracy.

Signed

JAMES CORMACK.

The Information of Mrs. Jane Smith, Mistress of the Elephant and Castle in Kent-street; confirmeth all that has been said relating to Macdaniel Egan, Berry and Salmon's Breakfasting on Bacon at her House, on the 30th of July as aforesaid, &c. She particularly noticed them, because one of them changed a Moidore with her, and cheated her out of Six-pence.

The Information of JOSEPH COX, sets forth,

THAT he is one of the Constables of the Hundred of Blackheath, and lives at Deptford, that in the Beginning or on the 4th of August 1754, he received Information that a Breeches-maker had been robbed near Deptford, by three Foot-pads, that two of them were taken by Macdaniel and others, and on further Enquiry

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Enquiry found, that the third named *Thomas Blee*, kept company with *Macdaniel*, or was his Man; on which the Informant, concluded it must be a contrived Robbery, and done on purpose to get the Rewards, and therefore determined, if possible, to take *Blee* privately.

And this Informant saith, that after four or five Days, and part of Nights diligent Search and Enquiry, he very fortunately met with him the said *Blee*, (but in a different dress from what he was described to wear) very early in the Morning in *Newgate-street*, on *Friday August the 19th*; and with the help of *Mr. Warren*, a Constable of the Parish of *Greenwich*, took him directly to the Water side, and went very privately by Water to *Greenwich*.

And saith, that soon after they were in the Boat, *Blee* declared himself very willing to discover all the Contrivance relating to the Robbery committed on *Salmon*, and all those concerned in it; whereupon this Informant very strenuously cautioned him to say nothing but the Truth, and bid him to forbear any further account until he came before a Magistrate; and and saith, that on his being brought before Justice *BELL* at *Greenwich*, he made and signed that Information which has already been inserted.

After *Blee* had given Information as has been related, this Informant *JOSEPH COX* obtained separate Warrants against *John Berry*, *Stephen Macdaniel*, *James Salmon*, and *James Egan*, for being accessaries before the Fact committed, in Assaulting and Robbing of the said *James Salmon*, with which Warrants, (after settling the Plan, and securing *Blee* privately to prevent their

“ their knowing he was taken) this Informant
“ saith, he went down to *Maidstone* to attend the
“ Tryal of *Ellis* and *Kelley*, in order to execute
“ his Warrants, as soon as their Tryal should be
“ ended.

“ When at *Maidstone* the first thing this In-
“ formant did, was to inform himself who were
“ on the Back of the Bill of Indictment; and
“ found that *Macdaniel*, *Salmon* and *Eagan* were,
“ that he was thereupon pretty sure of taking
“ them in Court, but was doubtful as to *Berry*,
“ that he therefore watched him very narrowly,
“ and the moment the Tryal of *Ellis* and *Kelley*
“ were called on, and *Macdaniel*, *Salmon*, and *Eagan*,
“ were safe in Court, he took *Berry* and put him
“ in safe Custody, and immediately afterwards
“ went into Court to hear how the Tryal went
“ on, and to serve his Warrant on the rest of
“ them, when proper time should offer.

“ And this Informant saith, that when he went
“ into Court, *Salmon* was giving his Evidence
“ to the following effect.

“ That he, *Salmon*, went into the *Ship* at *Dept-*
“ *ford*, and had a Pint of Beer there, that he
“ saw three Men sitting in a Box drinking;
“ that *Ellis* and *Kelley* the two Prisoners at the
“ Bar were two of them, the other was a *car-*
“ *rotty-bearded* Fellow; that he went out in the
“ Dusk of the Evening in order to go home to
“ *London*, and had got as far as the four-mile
“ Stone, between *Deptford* and *New-cross* Turn-
“ pike, opposite to which at a Gate, he stopped
“ to make Water, and in the mean time up came
“ the same three Men, and one of them asked
“ him where he was going, and damned him;
“ he thereupon desired them not to swear, and said
“ that he was going to *London*; Then said one
“ of them the *carrotty-bearded* fellow, and who

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“ is not yet taken, damn you, lets see hold
 “ of that Bundle and I will carry it for you,
 “ and snatched it from under his Arm, and
 “ struck him on the breast. The Judge was
 pleased to ask *Salmon* if it was light enough
 to see their Faces, and whether he was sure
 that the two Prisoners at the Bar were two of
 them? He said yes, it was light enough to
 see their Faces, and he was sure they were two
 of them.

The Judge likewise asked, if he knew the *car-
 roty-bearded* Man, or had ever seen him before.
 He answered never to his knowledge in his Life.

Salmon then went on and said, “ That *Kelley*
 “ one of the then Prisoners at the Bar, drew a
 “ Knife and said, damn him, let us search him,
 “ and took out of his Pocket a Tobacco-box,
 “ in which was one Guinea in gold, two Shil-
 “ lings and Six-pence in Silver, and a Silver
 “ Pocket-piece; and also took from out of his
 “ Pocket, a Clasp-Knife and Fork; he said the
 “ Bundle contained two pair of Leather-breeches,
 “ marked with I. S. and a figure of 4 under the
 “ right Hand Pocket; and the Handkerchief was
 “ marked with an eyelet hole at each Corner.

“ All the before mentioned Goods were pro-
 “ duced in Court, and he said they were the Goods
 “ he was robbed off, and that they were his Pro-
 “ perty.” The Judge asked him how he knew
 the Pocket-piece? and he said “ by a particular
 “ Mark it had in the Middle;” The Judge then
 asked the Prisoners, if they would ask *Salmon* any
 Questions? On which *Kelley* desired he might be
 asked, if he drew a Knife? and *Salmon* answered,
 “ yes, you did;” and *Kelley* said that could not
 be, for he had not a Knife.

And this Informant saith that he was pre-
 sent and did hear *James Eagan* also depose as fol-
 loweth;

loweth; " That he dealt in old Clothes, and
" that on the 30th of July 1754 in the Morning,
" he went into *Kent-street* to the *Lock-hospital*, to
" see if they had any old Clothes to sell, but
" they not being up, he went into the *Black-*
" *spread-eagle* to get him a Pint of Beer, and
" telling the Landlady his Business; he observed
" three Men drinking; who hearing him say
" he dealt in old Clothes, one of them a *carroty-*
" *bearded* Fellow asked him if he would buy two
" pair of Leather Breeches, he said if they could
" agree for Price he would, and that he agreed
" with them for five Shillings, and gave one
" Shilling Earnest to bind the Bargain, until his
" Wife should come with more Money.

" He said he asked the Landlady for a half-
" penny worth of Tobacco, and saying that he
" had lost his Tobacco-box, and wanted one; one
" of the Prisoners offered to sell him, the same
" that is now produced, which he bought of
" him for a Pint of Two-penny. And looking
" at the Breeches, he said he knew they be-
" longed to *Salmon*, the Prosecutor, he having
" heard that he had been robbed over night;
" and what gave him a greater Suspicion that
" they were the Men that robbed him was, be-
" cause he saw one of them ducked for picking
" of Pockets in the *Artillery-ground*."

Thereupon he was asked by the Court, " How
" he knew the Breeches belonged to *Salmon* the
" Prosecutor? He said because he had bought
" Breeches of him for himself and his Son, and
" knew his Mark perfectly well; and *Eagan* fur-
" ther said, that he went out under Pretence to
" get the rest of the Money, but with Design to
" get a Constable; and met Mr. *Macdaniel* an
" Acquaintance of his, and knowing him to be

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“ an Officer he told him the Story; on which
“ *Macdaniel* said he need not give himself any
“ more trouble, for that he could do as well as
“ a Constable.

“ They then went and took *Ellis* and *Kelley* the
“ two Prisoners at the Bar, and on searching
“ them, found on *Kelley* the Silver Pocket-piece
“ that is now produced, a Clasp-knife and a Shil-
“ ling; on which they sent for *Salmon* the Pro-
“ secutor, who said (when he came) that they
“ were two of the men that robbed him, and
“ that the Goods then produced were the Goods
“ he was robbed of.

The Court then demanded of the Prisoners if
they would ask the Witness *Eagan* any Questions?
on which *Kelley* desired he might be asked, whe-
ther *Blee* the *carroty-bearded* Fellow, and he the
said *Eagan* did not wink at each other, before
Blee offered to sell the Breeches? and *Kelley* in his
defence afterwards, insisted that *Blee* and *Eagan*
winked at each other, and appeared to be well
acquainted. (at that Time it was not known that
Blee was taken) Then *Macdaniel* was asked by
the Court what he had to say against the Prisoners
at the Bar? who said, “ All he had to say against
“ them was, that he met *Eagan* who told him the
“ Story, knowing him to be an Officer; and he
“ went and took them, and on searching them,
“ found in *Kelley*’s Pocket a Silver Pocket-piece
“ and a Clasp-knife, the same that were produced;
“ and that he desired a Drummer who was there to
“ assist him in taking them, which he did and
“ that was all he had to say.”

“ As soon as the Evidence had all done, the
“ Cryer of the Court bidding them stand down,
“ I did in pursuance of my Warrants (with the
“ help of Mr. *Sargent* and *Warren*, two of the
“ Constables.

‘ Constables of *Greenwich*) apprehend and take
‘ *Macdoniel, Salmon* and *Egan*; and as it was late
‘ at night, I got leave to secure them in the
‘ *Mayor’s-goal* for that Night; and having put
‘ them into separate Rooms, I asked *James Salmon*
‘ if he knew one *Thomas Blee*, and he said no,
‘ he did not, I repeated to him again, that I was
‘ sure he did know him; but he positively de-
‘ nied it: and the next Day being *Friday* the
‘ 16th, being then before a great number of
‘ Gentlemen, and most of them Justices, and *Blee*
‘ brought Face to Face before him, he was asked
‘ if he knew that Man? And he declared he did
‘ not, neither had he ever seen him before to his
‘ knowledge and so persisted to the last.

‘ And this Informant saith further, that the
‘ Account *Salmon* gave of himself, when he en-
‘ tered into Recognizance to prosecute was, that
‘ he was a Leather-dresser and Breeches-maker
‘ on *Saffron-hill*; but I found he did not live, and
‘ was not known there but lived in *Shoe-lane*,
‘ where I found him; and told him that the third
‘ Person who robbed him was named *Thomas Blee*;
‘ but he took no Notice at that Time that he
‘ knew the said *Thomas Blee*.

‘ I also asked *Macdoniel*, in the *Mayor’s-*
‘ *court*, if he knew *Thomas Blee*, and he said he
‘ did not; and the next Morning being the
‘ 16th, he did desire to speak to me in private;
‘ he then cried, and begged me to be his Friend;
‘ and said, if I would get him committed for fur-
‘ ther Examination only, he could put five hun-
‘ dred Pounds into my Pocket; and desired I would
‘ speak to the Justices, for that he could make
‘ a great Discovery relating to the Public.

‘ I thereupon acquainted the Justices with what
‘ he said, but at the same time I thought it my
‘ Duty in justice to the Public, and in order to
‘ prevent

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prevent so daring a Villain from escaping the Hands of Justice, to use my utmost Endeavours to prevent his being an Evidence.

As to *John Berry*, I never saw him before I saw him then at *Maidstone*, and at the Time that *Ellis* and *Kelley* were called to Trial, I found him in the Upper-Court; and asked him to go to drink: and as we were going towards the Bell, where I intended to fix him; he asked me what I thought of *Ellis* and *Kelley's* Affair, whether I was of Opinion they would be cast, and who was to pay the Expences, for that they would be considerable? In answer to which, I told him, if they were convicted there would be sufficient to pay the Expences very handsomely; and he said, yes, if they are cast: but if they should be acquitted, said he? why then, I said, the Prosecutors must pay the Expences themselves. Aye, says he, I know that; and if I was clear of this, I would never be concerned again.

By this Time we were got to the Bell, the Discourse dropt, and I took him into Custody: and after the Trial was over, and we had secured them all in the *Mayer's goal*, I asked *Berry* if he knew *Thomas Blow*? And he denied that he knew any such Man, and pretended to be a Stranger to them all, and only met by Chance in the *Grassfield boat*, as he was coming into the Country about Horses. And the next Day being the 16th of September, when he was committed, he and I walked together from the Bell to the Goal, and in going along he said, he hoped the Gentlemen would not suffer *Maddaniel* to be an Evidence, for that he had saved himself once before by that Means; but if they would admit him an Evidence, he could do for

Maddaniel

Macdaniel and *Ralph Mitchell*, but refused to enter into Particulars, but said he would write to me in a few Days, but never did. As for *Eagon*, the first Sight I had of him was at *Maidstone*, after he was safe in the *Mayor's* goal, I asked him, if he knew *Blee*; and he said he knew no such Man; but the next Day being before the *Justice*, and face to face with *Blee*, he did own, though with Difficulty, that *Blee* was the Man whom he had bought the Breeches off, at the *Black-Spread-eagle* in *Kent-Freet*; but that he was otherways a Stranger to him: and as for *Berry*, he insisted on it, that he never saw him in his Life before he saw him in the *Graveyard-house*, as he was coming down to the *Affizes*;

JOSEPH COX.

The Information of *Mr. James Kirby*, a Clerk of *Blackwell-hall*, sets forth, That he lives close to *Union-court*, which adjoineth to *Scroop's-court*, that he knows *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Salmon*, and *Blee*, and knows them to be perfectly well acquainted with each other; that he had seen *Macdaniel's* Iron Tobacco-box, and affirmeth, that the Box shewed unto him by *Joseph Cox*, is the said *Macdaniel's* Box, to the best of his Knowledge and Belief. That he looked upon *Blee* as a Runner or Errand-boy to *Macdaniel*; and that he very well remembers, about *July* last, i. e. 1754, *Blee* had let his Beard grow to an uncommon Length.

The Information of *Mr. George Holridge*, sets forth, That he is Landlord to *Macdaniel*, and had been so ever since the *Tuesday* after *Sbrove-Tuesday*, then last past; that he is well assured,

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affured; *Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon, Egan* and *Blee*, were perfectly well acquainted, for that he hath often seen them together; that he remembered *Blee's* wearing his Beard to an unusual Length, about the latter End of July last; that the said *Macdaniel*, when he was setting out for the *Maidstone* Assizes, told him, this Informant, that he was going to *Country*, and that he expected soon to receive a Sum of Money.

The Information of *Mr. Thomas Sargent*, who keeps the *Prince Frederick's* head, near *Wellclose-square*, sets forth, That he is well acquainted with *Macdaniel, Berry*, and *Blee*, that about twelve Months before the above Date, *Macdaniel* lived near unto him, and *Blee* went for his Man; and used to fetch for *Macdaniel*, from this Informant's House, *Beer* and *Tobacco*; and used to bring an Iron-box with raised carv'd work on the Lid, the same that is now produced by *Joseph Cox*, that he remembers, *Macdaniel* himself shewed him the same *Tobacco-box*, as an ancient and great Curiosity.

The Information of *James Price*, who lives upon *Hutton-wall*, and has Stables in *George-yard* where *Berry's* Dwelling-house is, was much the same as those above. As was also that of *John Samms*, a Carman, who lives on *Saffron-hill*, and hath Stables also in the same *George-yard*, facing *Berry's* Dwelling-house. *John Brada* of *Brooks-market*, doth likewise in his Information agree with the above.

From these foregoing Informations arose the most material Evidence that could be given against the Prisoners, *Macdaniel, Berry, Salmon*, and *Egan*, and enough too (the Reader will readily imagine) when he shall be persuaded that

Blee's

Blee's Information taken on the 9th of *August* 1754, and sworn to on the 13th, and compared with the Evidence given by *Macdaniel*, *Eagan*, and *Salmon* on the 15th at *Maidstone*, against *Ellis* and *Kelley*, is in Substance, if not in the very Words, exactly alike; which must prove *Blee* to be the Person who robbed *Salmon*, with *Ellis* and *Kelley*, (although *Salmon* denied it, or that he had ever seen him before*) or else *Blee* must be more than human, to know before-hand what Evidence they would give.

The Prisoners were thus found *Guilty*, of all the Facts charged in the Indictment, upon the the clearest Evidence; and to the entire Satisfaction of the *Court* and *Jury*; but the *Court* having some Doubt as to the *Law*, were pleased to direct the *Jury* to sign the following special Verdict.

“ We find the Record of the Conviction
“ of *Peter Kelley* and *John Ellis* prout.

“ **W**E find that before the committing the
“ said Robbery, the Defendants, *Macda-*
“ *niel*, *Berry*, *Eagan*, alias *Gabagan*, and *Salmon*, and
“ *Thomas Blee*, did maliciously and feloniously, and
“ with Intention to procure to themselves the Re-
“ wards allowed by the Statute for the apprehend-
“ ing of Robbers on the Highway, and some
“ further Rewards offered by the Inhabitants of
“ the Parish of *Greenwich* and other adjoining
“ Parishes, all meet at the *Bell-Inn* in *Holborn*, in
“ *London*; and that they all agreed *Blee* should pro-
“ cure two Persons to commit a Robbery on the
“ Highway upon the Defendant *James Salmon*, in
“ the Parish of *St. Paul Deptford* in *Kent*, which
“ is an adjoining Parish to the said Parish of
“ *Greenwich*; and for that Purpose did maliciously
“ and

“ and feloniously contrive and agree, that the
 “ said *Blee* should inform such Persons, that the
 “ said *Blee* would assist them to steal some Linen
 “ in the said Parish of *St. Paul, Deptford*.

“ That the said *Blee*, in pursuance of the said
 “ Agreement, and with the Privity of the said
 “ Defendants, did engage and procure the said
 “ *Peter Kelley* and *John Ellis* in the said Indictment
 “ named, to go with him to *Deptford* to steal
 “ Linen, but did not at that Time, tell the said
 “ *Kelley* and *Ellis*, or either of them of the said
 “ intended Robbery on *Salmon*, nor at any other
 “ time before the said Robbery was committed ;
 “ and in consequence of such Agreement, and
 “ with the Privity of all the said Defendants, the
 “ said *Ellis* and *Kelley* did go with the said *Blee* to
 “ *Deptford*.

“ And that the said *Blee*, *Ellis* and *Kelley*, be-
 “ ing at *Deptford* aforesaid, and the said *Salmon*
 “ being then and there waiting in the King’s
 “ Highway, in pursuance of the Agreement afore-
 “ said ; they, the said *Blee*, *Ellis* and *Kelley*, did all
 “ feloniously assault the said *Salmon*, and did take
 “ from his Person the said Goods mentioned in
 “ the Indictment, on which the said *Ellis* and *Kelley*
 “ were so convicted as aforesaid.

“ And we find that none of the said Defendants
 “ ever had any Conversation with the said *Kelley*
 “ and *Ellis*, or either of them, before the said
 “ Robbery was committed ; but we find that
 “ before the said Robbery was committed, the
 “ said *Macedaniel*, *Eagan*, and *Berry*, saw the said
 “ *Kelley* and *Ellis*, and told the said *Blee* that they
 “ would do very well for the purpose of robbing
 “ the said *Salmon* as aforesaid ; but whether the
 “ Defendants or any of them are guilty of felo-
 “ niously and maliciously comforting, aiding,
 “ abetting, assisting, counselling, hiring or com-
 “ manding

“ manding the said *Kelley* and *Ellis*, or either of
“ them to commit the Felony and Robbery
“ abovementioned, or whether the said De-
“ fendants or any of them are guilty of felo-
“ niously, and maliciously moving, procuring,
“ abetting or counselling the said *Kelley* and *Ellis*,
“ or either of them, to commit the said Felony
“ and Robbery, in manner and form as in
“ the second Count of the said Indictment
“ is charged against them, we know not, and
“ pray the Advice of the Court. And if the
“ Court is of Opinion they are Guilty, we are
“ of Opinion they are Guilty; but if the Court
“ are of Opinion that they are not Guilty, then
“ we are of Opinion they are not Guilty.”

RICHARD HEAVISIDE,	RANDALL BAYLIS,
GAM. GARDNER,	JOHN KEENE,
NATHANIEL NORTON,	HENRY KNIGHT,
SAMUEL NISBET,	WILLIAM BASSON,
EBENEZER GARDNER,	JOHN BRUIN,
JOHN POPPLETON,	JOHN PRICKLOW.

THE Trial being over, and the *Special Verdict* signed, I shall in the next Place proceed to give the Reader an Account of the Attempt to try *Blee* at *Rockester* the Reasons that led thereunto, and the means by which my Intentions therein miscarried.

Stephen Macdaniel, John Berry, James Eagan, and *James Salmon*, having been tried at the *Old Baily*, on *Saturday March 1st. 1755*, for feloniously comforting, aiding, abetting, assisting, counselling, hiring, and commanding *John Ellis* and *Peter Kelley*, to rob *James Salmon*; and such *Special Verdict* being formed, because it did not appear in the course of the Evidence, that the said Defendants did immediately, in their own proper

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Persons,

Persons, comfort, aid, abet, assist, counsel, hire, or command, *Ellis and Kelley* to rob *Salmon*.

And it being apprehended that the Proceedings upon the *special Verdict*, before the twelve Judges, would be attended with great Expence and Inconveniences, a Method was therefore thought of, which might prove more quick, less chargeable, and more certain; this was, to get *Blee* convicted for robbing *Salmon* at the next Assizes at *Rockester*, to be held on the 18th of *March*, and afterwards, under the Provisions of the Statue of the first of *Queen Anne*, chap. 9, by obtaining his Majesty's Pardon, to make him a legal Evidence; and then to try the Defendants *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, *Salmon*, and *Eagan* at the Sessions following at the *Old Baily*, for feloniously comforting, aiding, abetting, assisting, counselling, hiring and commanding *Blee* to rob *Salmon*.

By this Expedient it was thought the Objection in Law, to which the *special Verdict* was liable, would be best removed, and that it would answer the Ends of Justice, and give a pleasing Satisfaction to all Mankind. The use of this Statute appeared to my poor Capacity, so very applicable to the Case of those most profligate and abandoned Wretches, that I cannot forbear stating that Part of the Act which seems relative to it, and which I the rather publish, because I have met with but very few Persons at all acquainted with that most useful and excellent Law.

That Statute, after reciting, that the Abettors, and Contrivers of Theft, and other Felonies, had been the principal Cause of the Commission of such Felonies; and that as the Law then stood, no Accessary could be convicted or suffer any Punishment, when the Principal was not attainted, Enacts, " That, if any principal
" Offender shall be convicted of any Felony, or
" stand

“ stand Mute, or peremptorily challenge above
“ twenty of the Persons returned to be of the
“ Jury, it shall be lawful to proceed against
“ the Accessary before the Fact, as if such prin-
“ cipal Felon shall be pardoned, or delivered be-
“ fore Attainder”. As I thought the Scheme
I had proposed, both lawful and reasonable, pro-
vided a Pardon could be depended on for *Blee*,
I therefore endeavoured as far as I could, to put
it in Execution; for this End I waited on the
honourable Mr. *Fairfax*, and acquainted him
with my Intentions, and begged his Assistance,
as he was thoroughly acquainted with their wicked
Proceedings, and had often expressed his ardent
Desire to bring the Offenders to Justice; and he
was pleased most readily to promise me his En-
deavours towards procuring a Pardon for *Blee*,
adding, that he believed he should be at the Assizes
at *Rocheſter* himself.

I therefore on *Tuesday March* the 18th went to
Maidstone to acquaint *Blee*, who was still in Con-
finement, with what was intended, being deter-
mined not to try him, without his own Consent;
and upon my explaining the Nature of the Case
to him, he declared his readiness to confess the In-
dictment. I then proceeded to *Rocheſter*, and the next
Morning got the Bill of Indictment found against
Blee; but several of my Friends having declared
their Doubts whether I should be able or not, af-
ter *Blee* should be convicted, to obtain his Pardon;
and it not suiting the honourable Gentleman
abovementioned, to be at the Assizes; I was
obliged to decline that Scheme--- and *Blee* was
accordingly acquitted--- by which means it be-
came impossible to try any of those persons
again for their Lives, as Accessaries to such
Robbery.

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I cannot forbear taking Notice of the very great Uneasiness I was under notwithstanding the plausibility of this Scheme, from the fear of any ill Consequences arising from it to *Blee*: I should never have forgiving myself if *Blee* had been convicted, and I should have been unable to perform my promise.

Since this I have been told, that besides the Difficulty of obtaining a special Pardon for him, in order to restore him to his Ability in *Law* to give Evidence (supposing I should have succeeded in it) the Fees of obtaining and pleading it, in the following Term, in the Court of *King's-Bench*, would cost me above one hundred and fifty Pounds; so large an additional Expence could hardly be expected from one in my low Station, who had no other view in embarking in this very tedious and intricate Affair but the public Good, and who at this time stood unassisted by any other Purse than my own.

This Disappointment at *Rocheſter*, left no way to proceed against those Monsters but on the *ſpecial Verdict*; for which the Judges appointed *June* the 19th; and on that Day the twelve Judges of *England* met, and sat one whole Day to hear Council against them; which was learnedly argued by the Hon. Mr. HUME CAMPBELL and Councillor MADDEN; and on the 26th, they met and sat another whole Day to hear Council for them; which was also learnedly argued by Mr. Serjent DAVY, and Councillor ASTON, being the Council assigned them by the Judges; and the Judges were then pleased to defer giving their Opinions until another time; which was on the 8th Day of *December* following, and which Opinion, or Judgment was, That they should be acquitted on the former Indictment; but

but on *Saturday* the 6th two Days before they were acquitted, a fresh Indictment was found against them for a Conspiracy, by order of the Lords of the Treasury, upon the Recommendation of the Judges.

Here I cannot forbear admiring the Excellency of the *Constitution* of this Kingdom, and the great Care and Tenderneſs of my Lords the Judges, in preſerving, even to thoſe moſt merciless Offenders, the Benefit of thoſe *Laws* which they themſelves had ſo avowedly trampled upon, and made ſubſervient to their pernicious Purpoſes

February the 28th, they were tried at the Sessions at the *Old Bailey*, in the Mayoralty of *Slingsby Bethell*, Eſq; upon an Indictment for combining and conſpiring together, that one *Thomas Blee* ſhould procure two Perſons, namely, *Peter Kelley* and *John Ellis*, to go to *Deptford* in *Kent*, and to take divers Goods and Money from the Perſon of *James Salmon*, on the King's Highway, who was to be waiting at a certain Place for that Purpoſe; with intent that they ſhould cauſe the ſaid two Perſons to be apprehended and convicted for robbing him the ſaid *Salmon* on the King's Highway, and ſo unjuſtly and wickedly procure to themſelves the Rewards mentioned in the Act of Parliament, and other Parochial Rewards, for the apprehending of Highwaymen.

The Priſoners having nothing material to ſay in their Defence, the Jury found them Guilty. The Sentence pronounced againſt them by the Court, was, to be impriſoned in *Newgate* for the Term of ſeven Years; and in that Time to be each of them ſet in the Pillory twice, in manner following: *Macdaniel* and *Berry* in *Holborn*, near *Hatton-Garden*; *Gabagan* and *Salmon* in the Middle of *Smithfield*. And afterwards *Macdaniel* and *Berry*

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at the End of *King-street*, *Cheapside*; and *Gabagan* and *Salmon* again in *Fleet-street*, near *Fetter-lane* End; and at the End of that Time to find Sureties for their good Behaviour for three Years, and to pay a Fine of one Mark each.

Pursuant to their Sentence, *Maedaniel* and *Berry*, on the 5th of *March*, stood in the Pillory in *Holborn* near *Hatton-Garden*, and were so severely handled by the Populace, that it was with the utmost Difficulty that one of the Sheriffs and the Keeper of *Newgate*, who stood in a Balcony just by, prevented their being utterly destroyed; and so great was the Mob, that the Peace-Officers found it impossible to protect the Prisoners from their Fury.

March 8, *Gabagan* and *Salmon* stood in the Pillory in the Middle of *Smithfield-Rounds*; they were instantly assaulted with Showers of Oyster-shells, Stones, &c. and had not stood above half an Hour before *Gabagan* was struck dead, and *Salmon* was so dangerously wounded in the Head, that it was thought impossible he could recover. Whatever Punishment they might deserve from the Law, it is certain they ought not to be killed thro' the Rage of the Populace.

HAVING followed the most notorious of Villians thus far, I think it consistent with the Intention of this Narrative, and agreeable to my first Resolution, to give some Account of the various Transactions that they and others have been guilty of; tho' it may not be proper, nor yet possible to mention all, for many Reasons: And first, because it would fill a large Volume and quite tire the Reader's Patience, which, I fear must be well worn out already; and therefore, I shall only mention some of the most remarkable that are come to my Knowledge.

I shall

I shall begin with the Attempts of *Berry* and others on the Lives of two Lads near or quite 18 Years ago, and which will shew, that *Berry* was no Stranger to the Road between *Deptford* and *New-cross-turnpike*; I cannot convey a better Idea of those Transactions than in the Words of one of the Sufferers who is, (tho very near being otherwise) now alive to justify what he says for Truth, and which, as I had it from his own Mouth is as followeth:

The Information of *LYON ALEXANDER*, a Poulterer, of the Parish of *St. JAMES's Duke's-Place*, who saith,

THAT before the hard Frost, 1740, he being then a Lad, and just entering upon his Apprenticeship, accidentally met in *White-Chapel*, with *John Berry*, and *Thomas Currant*, both Strangers to him at that Time, *Berry* claped him on the Shoulder and said, my Lad will you earn a Shilling? And being answered yes, with all my Heart, what is it to do? Was again answered, by *Berry*, only to go to the *Dolphin* in *Well-Street*, near *Rag-fair*; and afterwards to carry a Bundle to the *Green-Dragon* in *Moorfields*; on which saith this Informant I agreed, and went with *Berry* and *Currant* to the said *Dolphin*. And this Informant saith, when he came there, he was shut into a Room with *John Berry*, *Thomas Currant*, *Sol. Deadman*, and *Samuel Unwin*, all Thief-takers, as it afterwards appeared; And further saith, that they all behaved in a very odd manner; he did then desire them to give him the Bundle, they told him of, that he might do the Job, and get home to his Master; but *Berry* answered him and said, G---d D---n you, you yourself are the Bundle that is to be carried; on which he was much sur-

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prized, and wanted and endeavoured to get out of the Room; but *Berry* again damned him, and said, if he made a Noise he would beat out his Brains; and did by Force and Violence keep him in; and this Informant saith, that he did beg of them that if he had done any thing amiss, he might be carried before a Justice; but *Berry* said, you have done no harm, but only run away from your Master, a Captain of a Ship at *Greenwich*; but this Informant answered, and said, I am a Jew, I dont belong to any Ship, neither can I by the custom of my Religion, eat their Victuals; but *Berry* said he did belong to a Ship, and that he should go along with them to his Master, and beat him with a Stick, and dragged him out of the House, in order, as he said, to carry him on board a Ship at *Greenwich*, to which he said he belonged; and coming into the Street, the People asked what was the Matter, and was answered by *Berry*, that they were only going to carry him to his Master at *Greenwich*, from whom they said he had run away, and they dragged and beat him all the way down *Wapping*, because he cried out to the People, and said he did not belong to any Ship.

And this Informant saith, that as he clung by the Posts and Rails as he past along, to prevent being carried away, they beat him on the Knuckles with their Sticks; to make him let go his Hold, and broke his Fingers; the Marks of which he now bears, and shall to his dying Day. And this Informant saith, that at *Wapping* they took Boat and went to *Greenwich*, and having got over against the hanged Man, *Berry* asked this Informant, if he saw him; and being answered yes, *Berry* said, you will hang in the same manner, and your Rags will fly in the Air in the same manner as his does; which so frightened and terrified

terrified this Informant, that he was going, and did endeavour to throw himself overboard, but was prevented by them.

On their arrival at *Greenwich*, *Berry* enquired for and found a Constable, a Publican, at the Sign of the *King's-Head*, and gave him charge of this Informant, as being a Foot-pad; and he was carried before a Justice of the Peace, a French Gentleman: and there *Sol. Deadman* and *Berry* did swear, that this Informant, in company with one *John Pritchard*, robbed the said *Sol. Deadman*, between *Deptford* and *New-Cross*, of a Silver Watch, his Hat and Wig; and *Berry* swore, that they robbed him at the same time of seven Shillings and Six-pence; and because he had no more Money, he said, that this Informant knocked him down with the but-end of his Pistol, seven yards, into a Ditch.

And *Samuel Unwin* and *Thomas Currant* said, they knew this Informant, and that he had been an Evidence at the *Old Baily*, and hanged five or six People; on which this Informant was committed to *Maidstone-Goal*: But he desired the Justice to enquire of these men what they were, and where they lived; *Samuel Unwin* said he kept the *Dolphin Alehouse* near *Wellclose-square*, which was true; *Thomas Currant* said he kept a Silver Smith's Shop near *Coveant Garden*; and *Sol. Deadman* said, he kept a Shoemaker's Shop in the *Strand*; and *Berry* said, he kept a Poulterer's Shop in *Lundenball-market*: All which, concerning the three last, was false, as it afterwards appeared.

And this Informant saith, that he was committed to *Maidstone-Goal*, about one Week before the Assizes; to which Goal *John Pritchard*, as mentioned before, was likewise committed about a Week before him, by the same Gentleman, for the same Robbery. And this Informant saith,

that he had just time to write to his Friends, and they appeared at *Rockester Assizes* and employed a Lawyer, in his Defence; and the said four *Thief-takers* appeared likewise, and gave Instructions for a Bill of Indictment against this Informant, and his fellow Prisoner; but finding, that this Informant had Friends, and People of Character and worth to make his Innocence appear, they never took out the Bill itself, but all ran away; on which, this Informant and his fellow Prisoner (an entire stranger to him) were cleared; and this Informant's Friends, being at a Tavern at *Rockester*, and saying they would give fifty Pounds to have these Villians discovered and apprehended, and being overheard by *Unwin's* Kinsman, he did for the sake of the Money undertake, and did do it; and Warrants were obtained from a Justice in *Wellclose-square*, against *John Berry*, *Samuel Unwin*, *Thomas Currant*, and *Sol Deadman*.

And this Informant saith, that one *Charles Remington* apprehended *Berry*, who was tried for it at *Hicks's Hall*, pleaded Guilty, and was fined and imprisoned.

Unwin kept out of sight until his Friends compromised the Affair, and paid twenty Pounds.

Thomas Currant was taken, but made his Escape out of a Coach-door, and was never after heard of. *Sol Deadman* was never taken for this Offence, tho' often attempted; he went always armed, and did once shoot at his Pursuers, and got clear off, but was after this taken at *Oxford*, for a Highway Robbery; and committed to Goal there, where attempting to kill the Goaler in order to make his Escape, was killed himself.

The next Exploit in point of Time, that I find those particular Men concerned in, was in the *September Sessions* in the Mayoralty of *William Len, Esq.* in the Year 1749. This was an At-

tempt

assault on the Lives of *John Swannick*, and *William Baily*; two friendless Boys, one about 20, the other 13 Years of Age; and contrived by *Man-daniel, Berry, Salmon*, and one *Boldy* for the sake of the Reward; as it was related to me by Mr. *Mosdell*, Brewer in *Southwark*, who was at that time Foreman of the Grand-Jury, for the County of *Middlesex*, who saith, "That he and some more of the said Jury had a Suspicion at the time the Bill was before them, that it was a bad Prosecution; and was therefore for rejecting the Bill; but it was carried by a Majority against their Opinion, and the Bill was found." But he being a Gentleman no ways sparing of his Time or Money, when bent upon coming at Truth; determined therefore with the Assistance of two or three more of the Jury as soon as they should be released from their Duty, to make enquiry into the Truth of what was sworn; but whether it was by accident or that it was the Prosecutors Contrivance, is not known, but their Trials were the first called on that Sessions, and they were tried and convicted before the Business of the Jury for that Day was over; consequently no Good could be done them upon their Trial.

Mr. *Mosdell* not content to let this Affair terminate so, the next Morning waited on the Lord Mayor and Sir *John Stracy* the Recorder, at the *Old Baily*, to acquaint them with his Opinion, and to take their Advice upon it, but was answered, he should have come upon the Trial and delivered his Sentiments there, which might have saved them, but now it was too late for any good to be done.

During this Conversation, an Expression dropped from the Recorder, which furnished the said Mr. *Mosdell* with some materials which were afterwar-

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of Use, and were to this effect, *v. l.* that he the Recorder believed the Jury would not have brought the Boys in Guilty but for this Reason. *Salmon* was asked by the Jury where he lived? And he answered at the Bottom of *Lincoln's Inn-Fields*, being asked how long he had lived there? He replied, he had lived and been a House-keeper there near twenty Years. This he the Recorder said, gained *Salmon* the Credit which before was wanting; but on strict Enquiry being made, it was found, he had not only imposed on the Court in that Particular, but they likewise traced his living at fourteen different Places within five Years; and that he was in other respects a Man of ill-repute: Mr. *Mosdell* did also prove the place and Company he was in the Night he pretended to have been robbed, to his Face, before the Recorder, who beheld ed blood as good as proof. This so clearly convinced them of the Villany of the Affair, as to determine them (the whole Grand Jury) to petition his Majesty in favour of the two Convicts; which was done, and was ready in the Kings hands, when the Report was made by the Recorder, and had the good effect of finding Favour enough to gain a Respite for fourteen Days; during which, such Diligence was used, in finding out the Design of this scene of Villany, as to procure for the unhappy Boys a free Pardon; By this means the Reward was stopped, and has not been paid to this Day.

In the course of the Enquiries amongst *Salmon's* Acquaintance, Mr. *Mosdell* told me, he heard of several more things of the like Nature perpetrated by them, preceeding to this Affair.

But notwithstanding all the Affiduity that was possible to be made use of, one of the poor Creatures died in *Newgate* of the Goal-Distemper, just after the Pardon was obtained: So that they
(these

(these *Thief-takers*) may justly be said to be the Death of him, by their wicked Contrivances.

It may be observed, with what Art they deceived the Court and Jury at that Time; for, *Salmon*, *Berry*, *Macdaniel* and one *Mr. Body*, a *Thieftaking* Constable, pretended to be Strangers to each other, when nothing is more certain than that they were all very well acquainted.

It is observable likewise, that *Salmon* altho' not robbed at all, yet swore he was robbed by four Fellows.

This swearing against four, was a sort of Improvement upon their former schemes; and had they succeeded in the Conviction of the two Lads, under our present Notice; there is no doubt to be made but that in a Session or two afterwards, they would have picked up two more, and have sworn to them likewise; by which means they would have gotten to themselves a good round Sum.

The trial of these two unhappy Creatures, being very remarkable, leads me into an Opinion that my Readers will be pleased to have a sight of it; whence, they will be better able to judge what is due to the Perpetrators of such (till of late) unheard of Scenes of Villany.

*Wednesday September the 9th, 1747, John Swan-
nick and William Bailly (two Boys) in company
with two others not then taken, were then la-
boured for robbing James Salmon of a Guinea in
Gold, and twenty Shillings in Silver July 21st
James Salmon, I am by Trade a Breeches-
maker, and had been out July the 21st, and had
received some Money; I called in Red-hon-square,
and drank part of two Tankards of Beer; and
coming up the Square, I saw four Fellows at the
end of the Square, and they dogged me: The Boy
Swannick*

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Sawwick, pass me two or three times, and asked me what it was a clock, they were swearing at one another; I kept forward, and came into *Dean-street*, where one of the Prisoners (*Bailly*) came up to me and gave me a Blow cross my Eye-brow, and cut it very much, so that the Blood ran down; I was for getting up again, when another said G---d---n you *Jack* knock him on the Head; with that he gave me another Blow.

Question, Did you understand which that was, who said d---n him *Jack*, knock him on the Head?

Salmon, That was one of the other, the young one *Sawwick* had his Hand in my Pocket, and took out my Money, which was one Guinea and twenty Shillings in Silver; I cried out stop Thief, but no body was by.

Question, Was it light at that time?

Salmon, The Lamps were light, and I took particular Notice of him that struck me, for his Hands were full of Warts. Presently after a Gentleman came by, a Stranger, I did not know him, and he asked me what was the Matter? I said I was abused, and robbed; he said you are Bloody and took out his Handkerchief to wipe my Eyes, and bind my Head; and he went home with me.

Question, When did you see the Prisoner at the Bar?

Salmon, I saw one of them, but not the two together till *Thursday* last (at *Chick-lane* by *Black-Belly*) I saw them sporting there together, on which I went away to *Mr. Berry* who was the Person that first came to my Assistance in the Street) and told him I saw the two Chaps that robbed and beat me, so *Mr. Berry* went to one

Body.

Body, and we went down to take them; but when we came there, there was twelve or thirteen of them; we saw them, but durst not take them.

Question. Who did you see then?

Salmon. We saw both the Prisoners at the Bar, but could not venture to take them, there were so many together.

Question. When did you take them?

Salmon. On *Saturday*, *Mr. Body* and another Man * took them, and sent for me to the *Three-Tuns* in *Kirby-street*, and asked me, if I knew them? I said I did; we went before a Justice, and he committed them.

John Berry. I know nothing of the Robbery; but I came by between eleven and twelve, and the poor Man was crying out stop Thief! he said he had been robbed by four Fellows, but I saw nobody; he had received a very great Blow; and was in a bloody Condition; I bound his Head with my Handkerchief, and went home with him: Some time afterwards, we heard of *Bailey* being in *Bridewell* for another Robbery; *Salmon* went to see him in *Bridewell*, but said then he could not be quite positive, but he would go the next Day to see him; but he (that is *Bailey*) the Prisoner was then turned out.

On *Thursday* he came to me again, and he said that in *Chick-lane* he saw the two Persons that had robbed him, and asked me what he should do? And I said, he had better go to *Mr. Body*, for he knew those Gangs better than I did; we went to *Chick-lane*, and he pitched upon them two as they were tossing up, but did not take them then, not caring to venture as there were so many of them: But on the *Saturday* afterwards, *Mr. Body* took them; and we went up before Justice *Bardus*, and

K

he

he committed them: they both denied the Fact before the Justice. As we were going with the two Prisoners to *Newgate*, somebody called out, hey *Jack*, where are you going? And the Boy *Swannick*, the Prisoner, replied, that he was going to the Start for nimming a Cull in his Eye; then swore he wished he had cut off his Head, for then he would not have whidelled again.

Question. Where do you live?

Berry. In *Cold-bath-fields*; I deal in Horses, and keep Stables there.

William Body. I was applied to by the Prosecutor to take up the Prisoners. I went on the *Thursday* with the Prosecutor and Mr. *Berry* to *Chick-lane*, where *Salmon* had seen them, but there were so many of them that we were afraid to attack them; *Salmon* the Prosecutor shewed them to me, and I said leave them to me and I will endeavour to take them; and on *Saturday* Morning I met with them accidentally by myself in *Chick-lane*, between ten and eleven o'Clock in the Morning; when I caught hold of them I was knocked down, (and I must speak it to the Praise of the House-keepers in *Chick-lane*, not one of them came to my Assistance) I said Gentlemen, you won't see me murdered? I pulled out my Constable's Staff, and one d---nd me, and said I was Constable for the County but not for the Town. I said for God's Sake help me up, for I had hold of both of them, and held them fast, and the Gentleman in the snuff-coloured Cloths* protected me, and we brought them both off, and had them before Esquire *Burdus*. But before this *Body* had quite gone thro' his Evidence, it happened to

* *Macdaniel*, whom he pretended to have no Acquaintance with.

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to slip from him that *Macdaniel*, went in at one End of the Street, and he at the other, in order to take the Lads.

Thomas Morrice. I know that the Prisoners were taken up as disorderly Persons, it might be six Weeks or two Months ago, and committed to *Bridewell*, but when they were discharged I cannot tell.

Swannick. The Prisoner insisted in his Defence, that he was in *Bridewell* when the Fact was committed, or said to be committed.

Baily denied the Fact, but had nothing at all to offer in his Defence.

Question, To the Prosecutor *Salmon*; where do you live? *Salmon*, I live at the Bottom of *Lincoln's-Inn-Fields*; I have been a House-keeper there for twenty Years.

Both Guilty of the Felony and Robbery, Death.
The Jury recommended them to his Majesty's Mercy.

It is needless to make any further Observations on this Trial, unless it be to mark the Inconsistencies of *Mr. Body's Evidence*.

William Newman and *James March*, two Boys, were tried, September 18, 1750, on the Evidence of *Timothy Bradds*, alias *Tim* the Taylor; for robbing of *James Daniel*, alias *Irish Jemmy*, alias *One-eyed Jemmy*, on Sept. 2, of one Hat, value one Shilling and Sixpence, one silk Handkerchief, one pair of leather Shoes, one Penknife, and 1s. 6d. in Money.*

This was carried on by *John Berry*, *Woodward*, *Harlow*, *Timothy Bradds*, *James Daniel*, and *James Eagon*; and done in the Yard where *Berry* dwelt.

The Fact was as follows: *James Daniel* was waiting ready to be robbed, *Timothy Bradds*, drew the two poor Wretches near the Place, then

K 2 stepped

* See the Sessions Paper for September, 1750.

stepped up the Gateway and robbed *James Daniel* by his own Consent, unknown to *Newman* and *March* whom he ordered to wait for him; then joins them Company, gives one of them a Hat, (he having none before) and the other the Knife; upon this *Harlow* and *Berry* who had been planted on Purpose, made a push as if they would take them, but failed in their Attempt for that Night; but the next Day, *Tim* took care to betray them both, into their Hands; the Prosecutor and *Thief-takers* appear on the Trial to be all Strangers, conformable to their former Practices.

The Knife, a remarkable one, is proved to be found upon the Prisoners; and the Confederate of the *Thief-takers*, *Tim Bradds*, who had drawn them to the Place, and committed this pretended Robbery himself, and who is admitted an Evidence, declares them to be equally concerned with him in the said Robbery, and that they had associated together, and went out that Night, with an Intention to rob.

In the taking of these two unhappy Lads, we find *Berry* a small Matter concerned with *Harlow*; but as to *Eagan*, it is not perceivable that he had any hand in taking them; neither did he *Mount*, which is the cant Word for giving Evidence: and yet in sharing the two hundred Pounds Reward for taking the Lives of these unhappy Creatures away, I find the Names to stand as follows:

To <i>James Daniel</i> ,	- - - - -	50	0	0
To <i>Woodward-Archer Harlow</i> ,	--	70	0	0
To <i>John Berry</i>	- - - - -	40	0	0
To <i>James Eagan</i> ,	- - - - -	25	0	0
And to honest <i>Tim</i> the Evidence,		15	0	0
		<hr/>		
		200	0	0

They likewise received 80*l.* agreeable to Act of Parliament, but how distributed, I know not.

N. B. *James*

N. B. *James Daniel* confessed before he died, with great Grief and anguish of Mind, that the above Lads were Innocent: And said, he owed *Berry* about six Pounds for Horse-hire; and that he, *Berry*, thereupon compelled him to agree to this Scheme of being robbed, in order to raise money to pay him. *Daniel* died not long since in *Clerkenwell-Work-House*, very miserable.

I find something very remarkable in the Speech of a poor Fellow who was tried for his Life and convicted on the Evidence of an Accomplice, and some *Thief-takers*, at the Summer Assizes at *Kingston*, 1751, (at which Place these Men have done a great deal of Business) this Man's Name was *Henry Brion*, and executed for robbing of *William Bates* in *Battersea-Fields*.

This being within five Miles of *London*, was sufficient to entitle them to one hundred Pounds extraordinary; but whether *Bates* knew of the Contrivance or not, I cannot tell; I hope he did not. The Evidence's Name was *John Carr*; and he says, they went out together with Intention to rob, &c.

The Prisoner said amongst other Things, *viz.*
“ I do not mind my Life any more than I
“ mind the Fly that flieth before my Face; but
“ it grieveth me exceedingly, that these *Thief-*
“ *takers* should bail out *Thieves*, to take in such
“ Wretches as myself, to go upon a lay, which
“ is unknown to us; that is, they do the Fact,
“ commit a Robbery themselves, and our Lives
“ are taken away for the Reward, &c. &c.”

At the same Sessions at *Kingston*, the honest *Cobler*,* of *Lambeth*, was tried for robbing one *James Hadnot*; and a very remarkable and positive Evidence he gave, supported by *Stanly*, *Chails*, and *Penprice*, all *Thief-takers*, and Evidences on former

* A Name he went by.

mer Trials; but the Jury gave no Credit to their Testimony, therefore he was luckily acquitted.

In October Sessions, 1751, *Alexander Byrne*, *James Malone*, and *Terence McCane* were drawn in to rob, or be present at the robbing of *Benjamin Smart* (not in the Secret) the Person employed to draw in the above, was *Charles Wayland*; who gave me the following Account of that Transaction, viz.

• That he was advised and employed by *Stephen Macdaniel*, *Tbo. St--ly*, *Mark Chails*, and *Peter Robinson*, to introduce himself into the Company of any Person or Persons (the more the better) that he should think fit for the Purpose, and endeavour to induce them to rob with him, any Person they should meet with. And in pursuance of such Directions, he did introduce himself into the Company of the above-named *Byrne*, *Malone*, and *McCane*, all his Countrymen, and did prevail on them to go out that Night; and he himself undertook to provide Arms, of which he acquainted *Macdaniel*, *St--ly*, *Chails*, and *Robinson*; and *Macdaniel* furnished him, the said *Wayland*, with Arms for his Companions; which were two Swords and a Pistol; which Pistol, *Macdaniel* was intrusted to load; but which was to be with nothing but Powder, that they, the Thief-takers might the bolder attack them after the robbery should be done; yet that treacherous dog *Macdaniel*, always like himself, put a Bullet into the said Pistol, as will appear presently.

• The Scheme thus settled, *Wayland* had took care to get his Companions out that Night, with those Arms he himself had provided; they robbed *Benjamin Smart*, at his own Door in *Pet-ricot-lane*: which done, *Wayland* told his Companions, that he knew of a House where the Woman's Son went out on the same Account,

and

and where they might have something to drink in Safety; they agreed to go where he directed, and accordingly he led them to the House of one Mrs. *Bosworth*, likewise in the Secret, and a Company-keeper of *Peter Robinson*; nay, it was *Robinson's* own House; though on the Trial they call it hers, and appear to the Court to be Strangers.

They being safe in the House or Room, *Wayland* proposed to send the Woman for half a Gallon of Beer (being the Signal agreed on) to a public House just by, where was waiting ready for that Purpose, *Macdaniel*, *St-ly*, *Robinson*, and *Chails*, who followed the Woman with the Beer, and rushed in upon those thoughtless poor Wretches, who did not dream of the Snare which was laid to take away their Lives; they rushed in I say, all but *Macdaniel*, who knowing what was in the Pistol, kept back until that was off; the others trusting to *Macdaniel's* Veracity, thought themselves safe; and therefore, when *Mark Chails* was shot in the Shoulder, and roared, out most hideously, *St-ly* cried out never mind it, as thinking he was shot with Powder only.

They were soon taken, for *Wayland* seized one of his Companions, and then the *Thief-takers* had but two to Conquer; and when the Danger was over, *Macdaniel* had as much Courage as the best of them: as to the Part he acted, he was well pleased with it, it making the Case look the better.

How far the poor Wretches under Consideration, and who lost their Lives for it, joined in the Robbery, I cannot undertake to tell, but the Snare is plain, for besides what *Wayland* said to me, it appears on the Trial, that the Evidence *Wayland* asked the Person robbed (after his Com-

Companions were gone) where he lived, and said he would turn Evidence in the Morning.

And although the *Thief-taker*, *Robinson* says he was going by that House, and heard a quarrelling, and went and called *St--ly*, *Wayland* assured me it was *Robinson's* own House: and *McCane* says in his Defence, that they were taken in *Robinson's* own House.

I asked *Wayland* what other Proofs he had relating to this Affair? he said he believed the Woman *Bosworth* would declare it, for that *Robinson* had left her and was gone to *Ireland*, where he was hanged; that *Mark Cbails* is likewise hanged; and *St--ley* fled:*. He said he could bring good Proof, that the *Pistol* produced on the Trial, and which is now in the Hands of the Sheriffs of *London* or *Middlesex*, was *Macdaniel's* Pistol.

N. B. If *Macdaniel* should be tried for this Fact, I am informed no *Point of Law* could have saved him from the *Gallows*.

The same Sessions was tried, *William Holms*, *John Newton*, and *Francis Mandeville*; for robbing of *Joseph Cbandler* (not in the Secret with them) these three Wretches appear to have been drawn into this Robbery by the Contrivance of the *Thief-takers*, who took them, and their Confederate or Agent who robbed with, betrayed, and was Evidence against them, viz. *John Simonds*, known at *Newgate* and at the *Old Baily*, by the Name of *Spanish Jack*; who himself was executed at *Maidstone* in *Kent*, on *Thursday, April 8, 1756*, for stealing a silver Tankard.

N. B. This *Simonds* or *Spanish Jack*, in his *Dying-Speech* declares, that he was put upon enticing others to go with him on the Highway, and with them to commit Robberies, and then
to

* The said *St--ly* is now in *Newgate*.

to betray them for the Sake of the Rewards, to the *Thief-takers*; and that he did receive Money from Time to Time for that Purpose from *Mac-daniel*, *St-ly*, *Ralph Mi---ell*, and one *Bal---ne*; and they did promise him, let what would happen, he should be admitted an Evidence, or they would bring him off some other Way. He owns he was to have been of the Party who robbed and murdered the Brewer's Clerk near *Wall-dose-square*, but that it happened he was not.

This same Villain, was supposed to have been one of those who robbed and murdered Mr. *Fargus*, near the *Barking-Dogs*, tho' in his *Dying-speech* he seems positively to deny it. But the Question is, whether any great Regard is to be paid to the Words of those abandoned Wretches, who have past their Lives in practicing such horrid Scenes of Villany (*Words that favour themselves*) even tho' such Words escape from them with their latest Breath.

The Six Hundred Pounds Reward paid for convicting the Six last mentioned unhappy Creatures, viz. ALEXANDER BYRNE, JAMES MADLONE, TERENCE McCANE, WILLIAM HOLMES, JOHN NEWTON, and FRANCIS MANNING was distributed in the following Manner;

6	12	20	Peter and Patrick Robinson
6	12	20	Mark Shales
6	12	20	Edward Millings
0	0	12	Even Sax
0	10	7	John Simonds, the Bowdler

0	0	300	for each of the abovementioned Convicts was paid out of the Reward, but how distributed, I know not.
0	0	300	
0	0	240	

Amounts in the whole to £840. W.B. The Persons robbed appear to have no manner of Connection with the Thief-takers.

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To Benjamin Smart, <i>Prosecutor</i>	63	15	0
Stephen Macdaniel	35	0	0
Nathaniel Harris	35	0	0
Ralph Mitchell	35	0	0
Thomas Stanly	35	0	0
Peter <i>alias</i> Partrick Robinson	35	0	0
Mark Shales	35	0	0
Jeremiah Melner	3	15	0
Thomas Freeman	11	17	6
George Mustow	1	17	6
George Ballard	1	17	6
Charles Wayland, <i>the Evidence</i>	16	17	6
	300	0	0

To Joseph Chandler, <i>Prosecutor</i>	23	0	6
Timothy Remington	22	19	0
William Nesbitt	22	19	0
Isaac Francia	22	19	0
Ralph Mitchell	20	12	6
Thomas Stanly	20	12	6
Stephen Macdaniel	20	12	6
Nathaniel Harris	20	12	6
Joshua Collett	20	12	6
George Balendine	20	12	6
Peter <i>alias</i> Patrick Robinson	20	12	6
Mark Shales	20	12	6
Edward Millings	20	12	6
Even Sax	15	0	0
John Simonds, <i>the Evidence</i>	7	10	0

For each of the aforementioned Convicts	300	0	0
was paid 40l. by Act of Parliament, but	240	0	0
how distributed, I know not.			

Amounts in the whole to 840 0 0
N. B. The Persons robbed appear to have no
Manner of Connection with the *Thief-takers*.

I beg

I beg leave to make one Observation in regard to the great Disproportion of the Number of Convicts, now at this time, to what they were before I made this Discovery: For, I find in *September Sessions 1749*, fourteen convicted for real and counterfeit Robberies, in the County of *Middlesex* only; and for the apprehending of whom was paid 14 hundred, and 14 forty Pounds; together, 1960 *l.* but if we take the whole Year 1749, we shall find forty-five Convictions for real and counterfeit Robberies, in the same County only; and for which was paid 45 hundred Pounds, and 40 Pounds, for each, as *per Act of Parliament*. The Total of this Sum is 6300 *l.*

I find likewise, that from the Time of this Discovery, which I brought to light at *Maidstone, August 15, 1754*, to this present Time, being almost two Years; no more than fifteen have been convicted for the said County of *Middlesex*.

THE next who present themselves upon this Stage of Iniquity, is *Mary Jones*, * with others, her Accomplices. This will set in a true Light another Species of contrived Robberies; *viz.* House-breaking by the Appointment of the Robbed.

Different Men are fit for different Branches of Business; and I have a *Thief-taker*, or *maker*, in my Eye, who has dealt pretty largely in this way, and has convicted three or four at a time; Lads at the Age of thirteen or fourteen: But as the Reward for taking these was not so large as that for apprehending *Highway* Robbers, they were not quite so frequent, and only put in Practice now and then, to keep up Trade, or their

L 2

Hands.

She who swore away the Life of *Kiddan* the Porter, and whose Blood still cries aloud for Vengeance.

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Hands in. I shall content myself with one Instance of this iniquitous Branch.

In *December Sessions 1753*, which began on the 5th Day, *Christopher Woodland* fell into the Trap which they had laid for him; being indicted, for that he, on the 3d of *December* (but two Days before Session) about the Hour of nine at Night, the Dwelling-house * of *James Gabagan* (alias *Eagan* who was killed on the Pillory) did break and enter; and three *Skirts*, one Pair of *Blankets*, one *Linen Counterpane*, two *Smoothing-Irons*, four *Candlesticks*, four *Plates*, and a Pair of *Mettle Shoe-Buckles*, did steal, &c.

Eagan in his Evidence said, That he went out on the *Monday Night*, the Time of the Robbery, about eight o'Clock, and left his House fast; that he returned before ten, and found it broke open, and the Things gone; and that *Mary Jones* (who keeps a Broker's Shop in *Broker's-alley*) sent to him next Morning an Account of her stopping the Things he had lost, and the Person they were found upon.

Mary Jones said, That two Men came to sell the Things to her, and that she kept the Things, and the Prisoner; and that the other Person ran away; and that she sent a Man to find an Owner at *Saffron-bill*, and he luckily heard him (*Eagan*) saying in the Street, that he had been robbed.

But now hear what Account *Blee* gave me of this Affair, as soon as taken; viz.

Thomas Blee said, That on or about the Beginning of *December 1753*, *John Berry* of *Hutton-wall*, took a single Room on *Saffron-bill*, of one Mr. *Evewess*, for *James Eagan* a Shoemaker, and put therein a few trifling Things of inconsiderable Value; viz. *Blankets, Pewter Plates,*

Only a single Room taken by *Berry*, for that very Purpose.

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Plates, &c. borrowed from one *Mary Jones*, for that Purpose; and that *Berry*, *Macdaniel*, *Egan*, and *Mary Jones*, desired *Blee* to get a Person to help him to break it open, and betray him to them, for the sake of the Reward. That accordingly, he persuaded one *Christopher Woodland* to assist him in the Attempt; and to render it the more easy, *Egan* took care not to lock the Padlock that fastened the Door, the Night the Robbery was to be committed.

Blee and *Woodland* got into the Room, and took a few Things, and carried them to sell to the said *Mary Jones*; and then, as had been agreed, they took *Woodland*, and let *Blee* escape. *Woodland* was tried for this at the next Sessions; but as his Character was not stained before, he was found guilty of the Felony only, and transported. This disappointed them of the Reward; and they were to stop the Expence thereof out of the next Job of this nature they were to be concerned in.

Blee says, The first Consultation relative hereto, was between *Berry*, *Jones*, and himself, at the *George* in the *Old-Baily*, the same Night that *Christopher Woodland* was acquitted of the Burglary, and found guilty of Felony only, by which, they missed of the expected Reward.

The Trial being over, and *Egan* the Prosecutor out of Company, *Berry* said with an Oath, "That old Fellow has done it so badly, I shall be all this Expence out of Pocket; we must have something next Sessions that will answer better, and which must bear the Expences." And he says, In the same Month; viz. December 1753, *Berry* sent him very early one Morning to *Macdaniel's* House by *Ragg-Fair*, with Orders to tell him to meet at his (*Berry's*) House that Morning, about the Affair: And accordingly *Macdaniel* came with him,

the said *Blee*, to *Berry's* House about eleven o'clock, that they found *Berry* and *Jones* together; that they all four consulted together; and that it was then agreed, that *Mary Jones* should be the Person robbed, as she had so rich a Son-in-law, and could appear so well, that no one would suspect her; *Blee* received the rest of his Instructions from *Berry*.

In January Sessions 1754, one Month after the last-mentioned Transaction of this villainous Tribe, *Joshua Kidden* was indicted, for that he, on the King's Highway, on *Mary Jones* did make an Assault, &c. and did take from her Person one Guinea and four Shillings and Sixpence.

MARY Jones in her Evidence saith, That she lives in *Brokers-alley, Drury-lane*; and that last Monday was *se'n* night, i. e. January 7, 1754, in the Morning, she went to *Mr. Berry*, and asked him to go with her to *Edmonton*; that they went to the *Bell*, and staid there three Hours; and that on their return, and at the *Pew at Tottenham*; she got out, because the Horse kick'd; that she walked, and by the *Seven Sisters* (Seven Elm-trees) as she was going to get into the Chaise, two Fellows came and robbed her, &c. And that the Prisoner at the Bar (*Kidden*) held a Knife to her Breast, while the other took her Pocket and Money.

Mary Jones further said upon the Trial, That *Kidden*, at the Time of robbing her, had on a white Waistcoat, no Coat, and a Flannel Cap. The other had a blue Coat, and a great slouch'd Hat; said, *Mr. Berry* called a Man who was coming by, and desired him to help her into the Chaise. She got in, and that they then went into the *Cross-Keys*,† where they had a Glass of Rum, and

† She means the Ship at *Stanford-Hill*.

and at the Turnpike were told, that two Men had run thro' there, as fast as they could, we pursued them to *Newington*; where (Mr. *Berry*) enquired after such Men; and the Patroles answered, that two Men had run by. They were then, in my sight; and I desired the Patrole to stop them: One of the *Thieves* jump'd the Ditch, and got off; but the Prisoner was taken.

This was at the farther End of *Newington*; and we took him to a Public House a little way from the Town. † He was in the same Dress as when he committed the Robbery, and he owned every thing; saying, another Man brought him that way, but he did not know for what; and that he was not the Person who took the Money. He owned he held me by the Arm, and that he pulled out a Knife upon me. He confessed the same before the Justice.

Berry (it being his turn to *mount*, as they called it) confirmed what *Mary Jones* had said, and mentioned a Man being with them; but very carefully concealed his Name, until the Court brought it out of him; and then he said, It was the Officer that went with them, to take the Man at *Edmonton*, and his Name was *Mac-daniel*. He was asked, How many People he had prosecuted? And he said, Only a Man for Horse-stealing. Several People gave the Prisoner a very good Character: But he was found guilty, and executed for this Fact.

Upon this unhappy Creature (*Kidden's*) being first taken up, and committed to Jail, he sent a Letter to his Sister, and her Husband, Mr. *Christopher Goddard*, imploring their Assistance, and declaring,

* She means *Kingsland*; for that was the Place *Kidden* was taken at.

† *Adams's*.

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declaring, in most solemn Terms, his Innocence, (which well he might) and this was succeeded by the following Letter, directed to Mr. Christopher Gaddard.

Dear Brother and Sister,

Jan. 13, 1754.

" I Have made bold to trouble you with these Lines, hoping you are in good Health, and beg of you to come and see me; for I have no Comfort at all; for all the Comfort I have in this Place, is to read the Letter which you sent me: And I pray to God Almighty to comfort me; for it grieves me to see the People come backwards and forwards to them (*the other Prisoners*) and I have nobody at all; tho' still I am very thankful to you for your goodness for to let me want for nothing. The Bearer's Husband has been very careful of me ever since I have been here, and so has she, or else I do not know what would have become of me; for she is a very good-natured Woman: So no more at present. My Love to you and my Sister. I remain

Your loving and unfortunate Brother

Joshua Kippen.

" P.S. I beg for God Almighty's Sake, you would help me; all that lieth in your Power; for I am loaded with Irons, which is very troublesome to me."

Directed as before.

Dear Sister and Brother,

Jan. 18, 1754.

" I Beg that you would be so good as to come and see me, for God's Sake; for I am very sick and weak; and this Night we are all to be double-iron'd, and To-morrow Morning

we

we go down to the Old Light: which is almost ready to break my Heart: when I think of it: But I hope God will give me Strength to go through it: for I pray to him Day and Night: Therefore, I beg you will not fail to come or send: But I should be very glad if you would come: for I want to talk with you: I should be very thankful to you, if you would send me a small Matter: for I have borrowed some to pay for some Purk, for to mend my shoes, for there is not a Bit of Hiss to sit down by, and my Hips are black and sore, with lying on the Boards so many Hours: Therefore, I beg you would excuse my standing to you: for I know not what I shall do with myself, I am so terrified with the Plaid: I do assure you, I have no Conversation with any of them in the Goal: So no more at present, but still remain: We have nothing to comfort me: *How unfortunate, but doing better.* Therefore, I beg you would send a Packet that

~~will hold three or four Quarts, and a Book to~~

~~read in: His Letter was as follows: I have read it, which will be of great Service to me in my Dear and loving Sister, Augustus, Jan. 11. 1754.~~

THESE few Lines comes from your miserable and unfortunate Brother, to let you know that I received your Letter, and the Sixpence which you sent me, and am very thankful to you for it: for it was of great Service to me: for we have nothing allowed us, but one Penny Leaf a Day, which is but of little Comfort to us: Dear Sister, I beg you would assist yourself as little as possible, for your own Health's Sake, and your Family: but compose yourself as much as possible, and be assured that I am innocent of what I am charged with concerning the Robbery: for as

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" God is above all, and knows the Secrets of our
 " Hearts, I had neither Knife nor Stick in my
 " Hand; neither did I meddle with the Wo-
 " man; which makes me a great deal easier in
 " my Afflictions. I pray to God Almighty Day
 " and Night to pardon my Sins, and to receive
 " my Soul into his most glorious Kingdom;
 " which, I hope, you will take care shall be
 " prayed for in the Church. I do assure you, it
 " is a great Grief to me to think what a Disgrace
 " this Misfortune has brought upon myself and
 " Family innocently. Therefore, I hope you
 " will all forgive me. There is two poor un-
 " happy Wretches along with me, locked up in
 " darkness; never a Bit of Candle, but what
 " we are obliged to buy (as they all do) at one
 " Penny a piece. Therefore, I beg you would
 " not let me want a small Trifle to get me Ne-
 " cessaries to comfort me. We have nothing in
 " the Place to put a little Water or Beer in;
 " therefore, I beg you would send a Pitcher that
 " will hold three or four Quarts, and a Book to
 " read in, and a Blanket to put over me a Nights,
 " which will be of great Service to me in my
 " Affliction. The Keeper tells me, we shall be
 " let out on Sunday for an Hour or two, and our
 " Friends may come in, and see us then; there-
 " fore, I beg for God Almighty's Sake, you would
 " come and see me then; which would be a great
 " Comfort and Satisfaction to your afflicted Bro-
 " thers, under my Misfortunes; therefore, I beg
 " you would not debar me of that one Favour.
 " My Bones are very sore with lying on the
 " Boards, and I am very weak to what I was
 " when I was out. You may come in any time
 " on Sunday, and see me: And I beg you will
 " desire my Friends to come and see me, if they
 " please; for I should be glad to see them before
 " I de-

"I depart this Life, and go out of this trouble-
"some World into everlasting Glory. I have
"had no Meat from the Tap-house since *Edw's*
"day; therefore, it is very hard with me. We
"are thirsty, and have nothing to put any Drink
"in; and I am hungry, and have nothing to
"nourish me, but a Morfel of Bread; there-
"fore, I beg you would consider my Affliction;
"and send me some Necessaries as soon as possi-
"ble. Pray remember my Duty to my Father
"and Mother, and beg of him to come and see
"me. And my Love to all Relations and
"Friends. So no more at present from *Volst* "

Your unfortunate, but still affectionate,

And loving Brother.

JOSHUA KIDDEN.

"P. S. Pray desire my Relations and Friends

"to come and see me, for God's Sake, and

"comfort me as much as they can. And

"I beg for God's Sake, you would not fail

"to send me a good Book, that I may

"read to the poor Wretches that are with

"me."

In another Letter of his, dated Jan. 21, 1754,
he says:

"I Received the Things which you sent me

"To-day very safe, and am very thankful

"to you for them, and especially for the Books,

"which, I hope with God's Blessing, will be of

"great Service to me, and the two poor Sufferers

"along with me. The Letter which you sent

"me the other Night with the Prayers in it, I did

"read over often and often; which was of great

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"Comfort to me. I do assure you, I will do all
 what I can in my Power to make my Peace with
 "God; who, I hope, will have Mercy on my
 "Soul; and receive me into his most glorious
 "Kingdom, where I shall have Rest eternal, and
 "be delivered from this wicked World, a World
 "full of Trouble and Vexation. I am sorry
 "you should blame me for not having more
 "Courage before the Judge, when you are sen-
 "tence I never was before any Judge before,
 "which made it a great Shock to me, and to
 "the dear old wicked Wretches which swore so
 "falsely against me."

"I beg you would not fail to come and see me
 "To-morrow; you need not be afraid, for
 "there is nobody that will hurt you."

"Dear Sister, I beg you'll desire my Father,
 "and all my Relations, to come and see me as
 "soon as possible, for God Almighty knows I
 "have not a long time to be in this World:
 "But I hope God of his infinite Mercy will par-
 "don my past Sins, and (for Jesus Christ, our
 "Redeemer's Sake) have mercy upon my de-
 "parting Soul."

JOSHUA KIDDEN.

"P. S. I beg for God Almighty's Sake, you
 "would not fail to come and see me To-
 "morrow."

~~em and you should send me a letter which you sent me~~
~~I should be very glad if you would send me~~

In another Letter, dated January 28, 1754,
 he says thus, "I hope I shall be able to write you soon."

"I should be very glad if you would send me
 "a few Oranges for to suck, for I am very
 "dry, and I cannot drink Water nor Beer, and
 "I could eat a little Bit of Bread and Butter, if
 "you

“ you would be so good as to send me a little Butter, I shall be thankful. I told my Cousin Worthington to see me on Sunday, and he gave me Half a Pint of Wine milled to drink, and my Wife was with him. I hope my Father and Mother is well, and should be very glad to see them. I beg you would come and see me as soon as possible, and send to me. So no more at present, but still remain,

Your unfortunate but loving Brother till Death,

John Ribben.

His Case was published in the *Dying Speeches*; and a very remarkable one it was, in which he gives an exact Account of every Transaction previous to and on that fatal Day to him, and most solemnly denies the Robbery, or that he had Knowledge of a Robbery, with his dying Breath. And amongst other Things declares, that he was thirty Yards from the Woman and Man when the Robbery was done, if any was done.

The Ordinary of Newgate continues his Account of the unhappy Case of this poor Creature, saying:

“ His Friends, as soon as they found what a Scrape he had got into, being alarmed by his sending to acquaint them that he was committed, resolved to see him, that they might know whether his Calamity deserved their Assistance or no. They went to him, and received the Account as hath been related; from which he never varied from first to last. The Account he gave of the Matter, encouraged them to enquire further into it, that they might find whether his Story was true or not, before they applied to seek any Interest to save his

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his Life. They went to enquire for the Pro-
secutrix; but she was not to be found, tho'
they enquired at the House where she lived, in
Brokers-alley in Drury-lane, as she said upon the
Trial: nor could *Kidden's* Friends meet with
any one in her Neighbourhood that had heard
of her being robbed at all. Upon their second Enquiry, they found out
where she lived: and then the People of the
House had heard something of a Robbery
committed on her, but she was not to be seen.
Her Character being enquired into, was re-
ported such, as (I shall only say what they
told me, saith the Ordinary) encouraged them
to believe the young Fellow's Story true: and
then they did endeavour to save his Life, but
their Application had not the desired Effect.
However, their Enquiry was sufficient to sa-
tisfy them in their own Minds, that his de-
claring himself innocent of the Crime laid to
his Charge, did not proceed from a wicked
Design to conceal the Truth, but was Truth
itself."

Blec's Account of these Transactions, exactly
corresponding with *Kidden's*, I shall pleasure my
Readers with a Sight of his Information relating
thereto, taken the 9th of *August 1754*, (this be-
ing the first Time of my hearing of *Kidden's* Af-
fair) and which is as follows:

*The Information of Thomas Blec, taken the 9th of
August, 1754.*

THIS Informant saith, That in the Month
of *December*, or Beginning of *January* last,
Stephen Macdaniel of *Scroop's-court*, *John Berry* of
Hatton-wall, *Mary Jones* of *Drury-lane*, *London*,
Widow,

Widow, concerted and agreed, with this Informant, to get, or introduce into his Company, one or more Persons, to commit a Robbery on the Highway, and afterwards to cause the said Person or Persons to be apprehended and convicted thereof, and share the Reward for Conviction.

In consequence whereof, this Informant got acquainted with one *Josbua Kidden*, at the Sign of the *Castle* in *Chick-lane*, at the Bottom of *Saffron-hill*; and the said *Kidden* complaining for want of Work, this Informant told him, that he could help him to a Job at *Tottenbam*, to remove some Household-goods for a Man that was afraid his Landlord would seize them for Rent. (*Tottenbam* being the Place mentioned, because it had been agreed by *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, and *Jones*, that the intended Robbery should be committed thereabouts, in order to intitle them to the subscriptionary Reward offered there.) *Kidden* very readily agreed to help this Informant to do the Job; this Informant promising him, *whether they did it or not*, to pay him for his Trouble, and likewise to let him know the Time when it would be proper to go; and the first Opportunity afterwards, acquainted *Macdaniel*, *Berry*, and *Mary Jones*, that he had got a Man that he thought would serve their Purpose; and *Berry* ordered this Informant to bring him to the Sign of the *Prince Frederick* in *Leather-lane*, under Pretence to drink, that he (*Berry*) might have a View of him; which having taken, and approved of him, he appointed *Monday, January 7, 1754*.

On which Day, *Blee* likewise had acquainted *Kidden*, that they must go and do the Job at *Tottenbam*.

Berry,

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Berry, Macdaniel, Jones, and this Informant met that Morning at the Sign of the *Queen's Head*, *Hatton-wall*.

Berry had that Morning sent this Informant to buy a small Pen-knife, and broke the Point off it himself, in order to give it to *Mary Jones*, that she might be robbed of it; and likewise folded up a Piece of Paper in the Form of a Letter, and gave it to this Informant, which he was to shew to *Kidden*, as a Letter to the Person for whom they were to do the Jobb. Berry likewise hired a Chaise of one Mr. *Smith*, a Corn-chandler on *Hatton-wall*, for himself and *Mary Jones*, and made use of his own Horse to draw it; and *Macdaniel* was to walk.

And the said *Berry*, *Macdaniel*, and *Mary Jones*, went to the *Bell* at *Edmonton*, and returned to the *Plough* at *Tottenham*, (as they afterwards told this Informant, and he verily believes) during which Time, and as had been agreed by *Berry*, *Macdaniel*, *Jones*, and this Informant, he took *Kidden* out of *London*, under Pretence to do the Job at *Tottenham*. That *Berry* having given this Informant some Money to treat *Kidden* with (about five Shillings) he did, according to the Directions from *Berry* and the rest, give that Money to *Kidden*, under Pretence that he himself had got no Pockets, but with Design, that after *Mary Jones* should be robbed by this Informant, *Kidden* might be the easier induced to put the Pen-knife, marked *Half-penny*, and *Half-crown*, into his Pocket likewise; and they being found upon him, and sworn to by *Jones*, would make his Conviction the more certain.

And

And this Informant saith, that they bought Pork-steakes at a Shop in *Leather-lane*, and that they stopped and had them dressed for Breakfast at the sign of the *Golden Lyon*, at *Newington-green*; that they had some Dispute with the Landlady about dressing the Steakes; that they went from thence, and then stopped at a public House the further End of *Newington Town*, towards *Tottenham*, and from thence they went to the *Plough* at *Tottenham*, the House he was ordered to wait at; that they had several Pints of Beer, until the Landlord would draw them no more; that he remembers the People at this House were washing, for the Clothes hung about the fire to dry; that he heard the Landlord's Son say he was to go to Ring for a Wedding, that on the Landlord refusing to let them have any more Beer, they went to the Sign of the *Ship*, being just opposite to the *Plough*; that they had at that House, five or six Pints of what they call Half and Half; that the Landlord drank with them, that there were some Hedgers with large Gloves drinking at the same Time; that this Informant during part of this Time, not seeing nor hearing of the Chaise, left *Kidden* at that Ale-house, and went out under Pretence to speak to the Man whose Goods they were to remove, but in order to find *Macdaniel* and *Berry*, and that he went towards the *Bell* at *Edmonton*; that at about half way he met the Chaise, with *Berry* and *Mary Jones* in it, and *Macdaniel* walking on the Causeway; that *Macdaniel* advised him to return immediately to *Kidden*, which he did, and when the Chaise came to the *Plough*, they (as had been agreed) pretended the Horse kicked so that *Mary Jones* was afraid to ride. That they stayed there between two and three Hours until Night came on, that this Informant kept *Kidden* dur-

N

ing

ing this time, drinking at the opposite Ale-house under Pretence of waiting to do the Job, that this Informant went out often under Pretence to speak to the Man, but to speak to *Macdaniel*, and as soon as it was duskish *Macdaniel* came in, had a two-penny Glass of Brandy, in a Wine Glass, and gave this Informant Notice that the Chaise was going.

This Informant then, after stepping out, returned, and told *Kidden*, that he had seen the Man whose Goods they were to remove, that he did not think it convenient to remove that Night, that he had satisfied him for their Trouble, and that they must come again another time, and therefore it was best to go home: And this Informant saith, that soon after they had past *Tottenbam High-Cross*, at about one hundred Yards before you come to the Sign of the *Bull*, there being a Pond on the left Hand, as you come to *London*; there *Kidden* and this Informant past the Chaise, with only *Berry* in it, *Macdaniel* being abreast of the Chaise on the opposite side, being the right-hand side of the Road, this Informant and *Kidden* being on the left.

That *Mary Jones* was then walking by herself, and turning the Corner by the *Bull*, as had been agreed on, in order that he the said *Kidden* might be present, or near, when this Informant should rob her; and he, this Informant, walked with her about 60 Yards, being then near opposite to a little white Door in *Sir Michael Foster's Garden Wall*. And this Informant said to *Kidden*, go you on, which he did, to about forty Yards distance, he being just abreast of the seven Elme Trees, called the *Seven Sisters*, *Kidden* not in the least knowing or thinking of any Robbery intended; at which Time *Mary Jones* gave to this

‘ this Informant half a Crown, a marked Half-penny, and a Pen-knife with a broken Point ;
‘ *Berry* being at that Time at a small Distance in the Chaise, and *Macdaniel* amongst Sir *Michael Foster’s* Trees, and both in sight, it being a very bright Moon-light Evening, and the Road full of People going backwards and forwards, and particularly five or six Men past just after, going from *London*.

‘ This done, he this Informant immediately left *Mary Jones*, and went and joined company with *Kidden*, and said here take this half Crown, &c. which I have taken out of the Woman’s Pocket, and give me the Shilling you have left, and I will buy something for Supper, and we will have it drest at the *Fox* as we go home.

N. B. That House being at first intended to take *Kidden* at.

‘ And this Informant saith, that *Kidden* seemed much surprized, and greatly to dislike this Action of his, and his offer ; nevertheless, they went on together a slow pace till they came to the *Bird-Cage* on *Stamford-Hill*, and there stopped and drank a Pint of Beer, and then passed forwards through *Newington* ; where *Kidden* would have crossed the Fields to *Islington*, but was persuaded to keep the main Road by this Informant, he being directed so to do, by *Berry* and *Macdaniel*, in order that they might pursue and take *Kidden* ; this Informant being at the same time to make his Escape.

‘ He further saith, that passing on near *Kingsland*, and hearing the Chaise coming, and seeing *Macdaniel* he said to *Kidden*, walk on, and I will follow you, and immediately *Macdaniel* passed this Informant who pointed to *Kidden*, and who saw *Macdaniel* take him into Custody ; and then this Informant got over the Bank and crossed the Fields to *Old-street*, and waited at

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the Sign of the *London Prentice*, by *Berry's* order for the Chaise, in order to have carried it home, whilst they went before Justice *WITHERS*, he being the Justice fixed on, because they thought if they went before any Justice at *Tottenham* or *Newington*, they would be more Inquisitive and render their Scheme abortive.

But the Chaise not coming as expected, he, this Informant went home and concealed himself for some time in *Berry's* Hay-loft, but afterwards coming down, and seeing the Chaise stand, as he thought, in some danger of being robbed of the Harness and Cushion, he therefore took them out and put them in *Berry's* House, and acquainted Mr *Smith's* Family (who was Owner of the Chaise) therewith, and whose Maid and this Informant, put the Chaise in its Place; and then this Informant went to the Sign of the *Castle*, at the Bottom of *Saffron-Hill*, where this Informant first got acquainted with *Joshua Kidden*, there he called for a Pint of Beer, but before he had drank it all, being then about ten o'Clock at Night, one *John Longly* came, and called him out, as he said, by *Berry's* Order; and just at the Door stood *Berry* and *Jones*.

Berry said d---n you, you Son of a B---h what do you do here? Come away, for the Constable and *Macdaniel* are after you, and I suppose they will bring *Pentlow* * With them, on which this Informant saith, he did not go back for his Beer, but went with *Berry* and *Mary Jones* towards *Hatton-Garden*; and in going along, *Berry* told this Informant, that *Kidden* was committed and had told the Justice this Informant's Name, and were he was to be found, and that they would certainly have taken him, had not *Macdaniel* insisted on carrying *Kidden* to Goal first, in order to give Time to *Berry* to put him out of

of the Way; tho' indeed it was promised that if he, this Informant was taken, the Woman was to say, she could not swear to him; but this frightened them a little; and this Informant saith, that he was generally concealed on Days at *Macdaniel's House* (who then lived in *Back-lane, Rag-fair*) and on Nights at *Berry's*; but being suspected by *Kidden's* Description, had like to have been taken by *Bath* and *Watts*, two *Thief-takers*, but believes *Berry* made them easy; on which *Berry* gave him Money to go and lodge in the *Mint* till *Kidden* was hanged, and then he said he could tell no Tales; and he did lodge about one Week in the *Mint*.

And this Informant saith, that the said *Kidden* was prosecuted for this pretended Robbery; by *Berry*, *Jones*, and *Macdaniel* at the next Sessions at the *Old Bailey*, and executed for it in the *February* following; and that the said *Jones*, *Berry*, and *Macdaniel*, received the Sum of thirty-five Pounds, and twenty Pounds as Rewards for the said Conviction; out of which this Informant received about six Pounds, for his Share or Part thereof.

And this Informant saith, that *Mary Jones* had on (at the *Queen's-head* in the Morning) a black silk Cloak and Bonnet, that she had something in a Handkerchief, which he supposes was a red Cloak, for when he overtook her at *Tottenham*, she had a red Cloak over her black one, and that she had the same on at *Richard Jones's Door*, when *John Lingly* called him out to *Berry*: the said Cloak she put on as he supposes, to keep out the cold, it being very sharp Weather.

Signed THOMAS BLEE.

This Information of *Blee's* giving light to that iniquitous Affair practised against, and to the taking

ing away the Life of *Kidden* (and which without the said Information, would in all Probability have remained for ever hid) set me upon going one Step farther.

BERRY and *Macdaniel*, whom I had taken as already related, for another Piece of Villany, were in hold; and I was determined to use my utmost Endeavours to cause the third Person, *Mary Jones* to be so too: Whereupon, about two or three Weeks after the Commitment of the former, I made enquiry for her, and was told by her Neighbours, she had left her House ever since the Discovery, and apprehending of the *Thief-takers at Maidstone*; neither could I get any certain Intelligence of her till about the 24th of *January* last, when *Mr. Batterson*, a Marshal's-Court-Officer came and offered to discover unto me the Place where the said *Mary Jones* was concealed; on which I applied to the worshipful Justice *Sperling*, who granted his Warrants to apprehend her.

On *Sunday, Feb. 1, 1756*, I met *Mr. Batterson* and a Friend of his, and *Tom Blee* by Appointment, at *Turnham-green*, and from thence we went to *Twickenham*; at which Place, I was then told by *Batterson*, that she lived at the House of *Mr. Swan*. Upon this, I got the Constable of the Town to accompany me; and we together went first up to the House, which is situated with one other House only, at the upper end of a long Walk, with close Yew-hedges on each side. The other House front the Walk, and *Swan's* House is obscured from Sight on the Left-hand.

It was agreed that *Mr. Batterson*, his Friend, and *Blee* (this last being the only one in Company who knew *Mary Jones*) should enter the lower end of the Walk, just as myself and the Constable turned the Corner of the Yew-hedge at the top.

The

The Constable had told me going along, that he knew the Person wanted, and that she went by the Name of *Fanny*, but in this he was mistaken; and it so happened, that just as we turned the Corner, I cast my Eye on *Mary Jones* going down the Garden, but was not certain it was she, tho' she answered the Description; however, the Constable at that instant going to the Door; which stood open, and saying aloud to a Person in the House, how do you Mrs. *Fanny*, made me neglect the Woman I had seen and go to the House: And asking the Person whom I found there, if her Name was *Jones* (tho' she did not come up to the Description I had received?) She answered, no. I then asked, if *Mary Jones* was at Home? She replied, no, she was gone to *Hampton-court*, and would not be back in less than a Fortnight.

By this Time, *Batterson*, his Friend, and *Blee* were come up; and being perceived by the People of the House fronting the Walk, the Mistress thereof (*Mrs Souden*) came running to give *Mary Jones* Notice to get out of the way; and not knowing as she afterwards owned, that *Mary Jones* was run down the Garden, she rung her Hands and cried for God's Sake don't frighten us, what do you want? And being answered, only to speak with *Mary Jones*: She said again, what do you want with her, she is at my House, if you will not frighten her, you may speak to her, if you will go with me?

All this was done, as she afterwards owned, to get us from *Swan's House*, that *Mary Jones* might escape; and every Method was taken by her and the Woman named *Fanny*, and some others to make her Escape the more certain. At this Time, came to me, *Thomas Blee*, and said he had heard somebody calling out at the bottom of the Garden (which we could not see by Reason of a cross

cross Hedge) who is that breaking the Pales? On which I concluded, that the Person that went down the Garden, was certainly *Mary Jones*, and that she was fled that way: I herupon pursued down to the bottom of the Garden, and went into a House, the Master and Mistress much opposing me. And having got a Candle, and going into a little dark Cellar or Vault, found *Mary Jones* squatted close on the Ground by the side of the Beer Stand: *Blee* saluted her by Name, as soon as he saw her: and I asked her, if she knew him? She answered, no, she never saw the Fellow in her Life before. I then asked her, if she knew one *Jaby Burry*; she denied that she did at first, but afterwards owned she did. I again asked her if she knew *Macdaniel* or *Eogan*, or *Gabagan*, both which she strongly denied the Knowledge of. I then asked whether she had not prosecuted House-breakers or Footpads with either of them, and shared Rewards with them? She declared she never had received any Reward for House-breakers or Footpads in all her Life.

She then desired not to be exposed at a public House, but that she might be permitted to go up to where she came from; there after some Discourse, she burst out in a great Rage against *Berry*, and called him *Rogue* and *Villain* to draw her into such a Scrape; and then she swore she would hang him, since it was so; and afterwards she said, she would hang them all.

By this Time a Coach was provided, and she was brought that Night to the *Jerusalem-tavern*, *Clarkenvell-green*: and the next Day being *Monday*, the 21st of *February*, the worshipful Justice *Sparling* attended there to examine her; I had likewise prevailed with Mr. *Ford*, to attend her Examination; he having been so kind to give his Attendance at the Time this worthy Magistrate granted

granted his Warrants for the apprehending of her.

During her Examination she declared that she never saw *Blee* in all her Life-time, before Yesterday at *Twickenham*.

Said, the Occasion of her going to *Edmonton* the Day she was robbed was, to enquire after one *Morrice*, a Taylor, who owed her Money.

That she never saw *Macdaniel*, nor was in his Company in all her Life, till that Day she went to *Edmonton*, and then overtook him on the Road.

Said, that when they were at the *Bell* at *Edmonton*, she sent *Macdaniel* to enquire after *Morrice*, who was said to live three Doors from thence; and that the said *Macdaniel* brought Word he was not to be found.

Said, the Reckoning came to about eighteen Pence or two Shillings, and that *Berry* paid it.

Said, that when they set out from the *Bell*, they sent *Macdaniel* forwards to get some hot Pot ready at the *Plough* against they came. And afterwards said, that when they came to the *Plough*, the Horse kicked, and that occasioned them to stop.

Being asked to reconcile that, with getting the hot Pot ready?

Said, she did not know, but it was the Truth.

Said, they staid at the *Plough* till it was Night, and then set out for *London*.

Being asked what the Reckoning came to at the *Plough*, and who paid it?

Said, about two Shillings, and that *Berry* paid it, because she had no Silver; that she offered to change a Guinea there, but could not.

That when they set out, she by *Berry's* Direction walked a little until she came near the *Seven Sister* (*Seven Elms Trees* so called) and that she there was robbed; by *Kidden* and another; that

Berry

Berry was near her, but does not know where *Macdaniel* was.

Being asked, what she was robbed of?

Said, one Gulnea, a Half-crown, a Half-penny, and a Clasp-Knife.

Being asked how she came by that Half-crown, as she had no Silver at the *Plough* to pay the two Shillings?

Said, she had the Half-crown when there, but told *Berry* otherwise, because he should pay.

Said, she was to pay the Expence of the Day, and that she did pay *Berry* again.

Said, the Knife * was taken on *Kidden*, that he held to her Throat, but not the Knife, she lost, nor none of her Money.

Declared, that she never saw *Berry* nor *Macdaniel* from that Time, until the Trial of *Kidden*.

Said, she never received nor claimed any Part of the Reward.

Owens, she was present at the Settlement of the Reward, before the Recorder.

That she was allowed twelve Pounds, but never had it; can't write, never put her Mark to any Instrument for the Disposal of it, or to enable any other Person to receive it.

Said, she gave the same Account before the Justice, and at the Trial.

Being asked how she came to run away to avoid being taken?

Answered; that Yesterday or Sunday, she ran out of the Garden on seeing a strange Man, and got over the Pales, and run into a Neighbour's House, and hid herself in the Cellar, for fear of being prevailed upon to give her Note for three Pounds, which had been demanded of her; and not from any fear of being taken up or arrested, upon any Account whatsoever.

Said, she left her House in *Broker's-alley*, and went

* No Knife was taken on *Kidden*.

went and lived in the Country soon after *Kidden's* Trial; does not know who the other Man was that robbed her, never saw him before or since, and does not know his Name: and that she went twice since to the *Plough* at *Tattenbam* to enquire after *Morrice*.

The Examination being over, and Mr. *Ford* and the worshipful Justice having attentively considered the Matter, they declared that the Case was quite new, and that it was their Opinion it amounted to Murder, or at least it ought in that light, to be submitted to the Judgment of the Court. Upon which the worshipful Justice was pleased to commit her to *Newgate* for the wilful Murder of *Joshua Kidden, &c.* and Warrants of Detainer for the like Crime, were granted by the said Justice, to detain *Berry* and *Macdaniel* also in *Newgate*.

Two Days after this, viz. Feb. 4, 1756, *Macdaniel* was examined before Alderman *Rawlinson*, (Justice *Sperling* being present) at Mr. *Ackerman's*, the Keeper of *Newgate's* House.

When being asked, if he knew *Mary Jones*?

Answered, he knew her very well, had often been in her Company; knew her in her Husband's Lift-time, and had been at her House.

Being asked the Occasion of his going that Day to *Tottenbam*? Answered, *Mary Jones*, herself employed him to go, in order to arrest a Man;* and that she promised to give him a Guinea, if he did arrest the Man. That when they came to the *Bell* at *Edmonton*, *Mary Jones* and he went out together to enquire after the Man, whose Name was *Morrice*; she went first and he followed at a little Distance, in order to take a View of him; that *Mary Jones* went to some House at a

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little

* N.B. *Macdaniel* was once a *Marshal's Court-Officer*, but discharged for Misbehaviour, Dec. 4, 1753, which was precedent to this Affair.

little Distance from the *Bell* to enquire, but did not find him; that they left the *Bell* and went all together to another public House, stay'd two Hours and had Hot-pot, and left that House in the Evening; he walk'd, and they in the Chaise, but that she was robbed on Foot.

That when she had been robbed, she got into the Chaise to *Berry*, and that he drove after the Thieves; and overtaking *Mardaniel*, desired him to take them; and that he took *Kidden* near *Kingsland*.

WE have now followed the Actors in this diabolical TRAGEDY, to the taking away the Life of another, a poor, almost friendless and innocent Creature. We have traced the Repetitors of this most black and most accursed Villany, through all their intricate Meanders; neither could I entertain the Thoughts of relinquishing the Pursuit, till I found these Monsters fixed in those dreadful Apartments, appointed for the Reception of the Delighters in the shedding of Blood; the Destroyers of the Repose and Tranquility of the human Race.

This done, I shall in the next Place exhibit to public View, the Informations from whence sprung forth the Indictment of those scarcely to be paralleled Villains, *STEPHEN MACDANIEL*, *JOHN BERRY*, and their artful and bloody-mined Accomplice *MARY JONES*, for the wilful Murder of (the said innocent Creature) *Joshua Kidden*; in maliciously causing him to be unjustly apprehended, falsely accused, tried, convicted, and executed, well knowing him to be innocent of the Fact laid to his Charge; with intent to share to themselves the Reward, &c.

Blac's Account of this Affair, which is the Foundation of all the rest, I have given already.†

And

*And next followeth the Information of Richard Jones,
which sets forth,*

THAT he keeps the *Castle Albouze*, at the bottom of *Saffron-bill*, and that he very well remembers, that on the *Thursday* before *Joshua Kidden* was taken up, for robbing one *Mary Jones*; that *Thomas Blee* and another Person, since known to be *Joshua Kidden*, were at his House drinking, that he heard *Blee* tell *Kidden* he could help him to a Job, to remove some household Goods at *Tottenham*, if he would go with him there; that whether they did the Job or not, he should be paid for his Trouble: that he heard *Kidden* say he would go with him. That *Blee* and *Kidden* were at his House on the *Saturday* and *Sunday* following, and likewise on the *Monday* Morning, and both said they were then going into the Country; that he remembers *Blee* came to his House that same Night, and had some Beer; that he was called out in great haste, by one *John Lingley*, and left his Beer behind him, and did not return to drink it: and that soon after this came *Macdaniel*, *Pentlow*, and a Constable to rake a Man, as they said, for robbing on the Highway, but found none; that they did not ask for *Blee*, but *Pentlow* said *Macdaniel* was the only one amongst them that knew the Man they wanted; that if *Macdaniel* had asked for *Blee*, he believes he could very easily have found him.

That soon after *Joshua Kidden* was condemned, (and hearing so much talk of him, and the Robbery) he began to think it must be the same Man that went with *Blee*, and that he had trepaned him; he therefore went to *Newgate* in order to be certain, and found the Person condemned

* *Blee* at that Time wore a blue Coat and slouch Hat, agreeable to what *Mary Jones* says on the Trial of *Kidden*.

denmed by the Name of *Joshua Kidden*, was the same who went with *Blee* from his House to go into the Country."

RICHARD JONES.

The Wife of the said *Richard Jones* confirms his Testimony; and she moreover declares, that *Macdaniel* was so far from mentioning the Name of *Blee*, that she quarreled with him for attempting to go up Stairs without telling who he was in search after.

The Information of Mrs. Sarah Boyton, Mistress of the Golden Lyon, at Newington Green; the House that Blee saith Kidden and he breakfasted at, on Pork Steakes, as they went to Tottenham, January the 7th, 1754.

THIS Informant saith, that she very well remembers to have drest Pork-steakes for two Men in a Morning, and believes it to be two Years ago, in *January* last; that they sat at a Table in the Bar-room, over against the Fire-place, that they were pretty difficult, and behaved but very indifferent. That she charged Two-pence for dressing, according to the Custom of her House, but they found Fault with it, and she abated it. That one of them was pitted with the Small Pox, and on seeing *Blee*, saith, she is confident he is that very Person.

The Information of Mr. Richard Jackson, who keeps the Sign of the Plough, at Tottenham, sets forth.

THAT on *Monday January 7, 1754*, he saw two very shabby sort of Men, the one in a lightish Coat or Waistcoat, the other with a sleutched Hat on, drinking at the said *Plough* (then kept by his Father, since deceased) Saith,

‘ Saith, that on his since seeing *Blee*, he verily believes him to be one of them : Saith, it was washing-day, and that he went with some others to Church, to ring the Bells on account of a Wedding. That on his return in the Evening, his Father told him, two Men, one of which, and a Woman, who came in a Chaise, had been drinking there all the Afternoon ; that he wondered they staid till Night, when their Pretence for stopping was, that the Horse kicked.’

The Information of Hannah Chitty, Sister to Richard Jackson, sets forth.

‘ **T**HAT on *Monday*, she believes *January 7th*, 1754, it being Washing-day at her Father’s, she attended there ; that her Brother went that Day to ring for a Wedding. That in the Morning two Strangers sat Drinking in the Fore-room, and went from thence to the Ship at the opposite side of the Way, her Father refusing to draw them any more Beer. On seeing *Blee* since, this Informant saith, she verily believes him to be one of them.

‘ She remembers likewise, that about two o’Clock, two Men and a Woman with a Chaise came there, whose Company her Father did not like, and thereupon set her Son, who is since dead, to watch that they did not steal some of the Linen. Upon their going away, they wanted to change a Guinea, which her Father refused, fearing they would cheat him. She further saith, that according to the best of her Remembrance and Belief, about the time of the Chaise going away, she saw one of the Men who came with it, stand talking at the Door of the Ship with one of the Men who was drinking at her Father’s in the Morning.’

William

William Davis and his Daughter at the *Ship* at *Tattenham*, opposite to the *Plough*, confirms the Testimony of *Blee*, and of *Richard Jackson* and his Sister, as far as relates to *Blee* and another Man being at her House on the 7th of *January* above-mentioned.

Robert Beels and *William Robertson* Turnpike Men, at *Stamford-Hill*, the first of these being asked what he rembered of this Affair, saith,

THAT as the Man and Woman (*Bory* and *Mary Jones*) came through the Turnpike in a Chaise, the Woman said she had been robbed; and being asked if he or his Partner had told them that two Men had just ran through there as fast as they could, and that they had been thereabouts for two or three Nights, he said that he was sure no such Thing was, or could be told them, for no such Thing had happened, neither had they been asked such a question.

William Robertson confirmed the above, with this Addition: That as the Chaise came up to the Gate, a Man was leading the Horse, and another Man seemed to walk abreast of the Chaise on the Causeway. That this latter got over the stile just as the Chaise went through the Gate. That he heard the Woman say she had been robbed near the *Seven Sister*. Nevertheless, she putting her Hand in her Pocket, said, *She was Richer than she thought for, for she had got half a Crown and some Half-pence, which Half-pence she gave the Man that led the Horse.* *Richard Gwinnett*, *Richard Man* and *Henry Smith*, being the Patrols at that time, I asked them if they, or either of them remembered the Time when

when *Joshua Kidden* was taken? They answered yes, very well; then I asked them, if they told *Berry* that two Men had run past them? or if *Berry* or the Women in the Chaise asked them to stop them? They all said no, they never saw them; and were never asked about them by any body in the Chaise; that they heard some talk of a Robbery, and when they came to *Adams's* a public House, the Sign of the *Swan*, between *Kingsland* and *Shore-ditch*, they heard the Parties were all in there.

John Palmer a Butcher at *Newington Green*, saith;

THAT he remembers on the 6th or 7th of *January*, 1754, as he was going along *Kingsland Road* in the evening, he saw two Men forcing another Man into the House of Mr. *Adams*; that being desirous to know what was the Matter, he went in and saw *Maddaniel* and *Berry*, having *Joshua Kidden* in their Custody, charged with a Robbery; that knowing his (*Kidden's*) Father, he asked him about it, on which he cried much, and said he never robbed Man, Woman, or Child in his life, and never had such a Thought; and so persisted all the Time he was there:† He saith that *Mary Jones* came in and said, this is the Man that held a Knife to my Breast, and I will swear to him, That *Maddaniel* or *Berry* did not like that he should talk to *Kidden*, and therefore, he, this Informant went away; and that he thought at that Time the Man was Innocent.

Henry Palmer, Brother to the above *John*, was present at the same Time, and confirmed what his Brother had said. As does likewise Mrs. *Adams*, Mistress of the *Swan Alehouse*.

P

Mr.

*Mr. Piggot and his Wife, who keep the Bell at Ed-
monton, both declared,*

THAT they remembered *Macdaniel, Berry* and *Mary Jones's* being at their House in *January 1754*, but neither of them know of the said *Jones's* making Enquiry after any Body. They further declare, that they have not seen (to their Knowledge) the said *Jones* from that Time to this; and that they know nothing of one *Morrice a Taylor*, nor of any such Person's having lived in ther Neighbourhood.

Mr. JAMES WARRINER, Clerk to Justice WITHERS, before whom Kidden was carried, saith;

HE has known *Macdaniel* and *Berry* many Years, that when *Kidden* was brought by them before the Justice, and charged with a Robbery, he was apprehensive he was to be made a Sacrifice; in order to put Money into their Pockets; that he thereupon questioned *Macdaniel*, how he came to be there so luckily, and wondered that no Mobb followed them, as is usual in such Cases, *Macdaniel* replied, he had been at *Newington* about Business, but did not say, as he remembers, that he had been at *Edmonton*. Saith, that *Kidden* so far from owning a Robbery, (as is alledged) cried terribly, that he strongly insisted from first to last (whilst there) that he knew of no Robbery, but that he had been employed by one *Thomas Blee* to go to *Tottenham*, to remove some household Goods, and if the Woman was robbed, it was by him the said *Blee*; saith, that *Berry, Macdaniel* and *Mary Jones* was present when *Kidden* made that Declaration. And

* See Page 97, and 99.

‘ And he further saith, that when he was making
‘ the Recognizance for *Mary Jones*, he asked her
‘ where she lived? *Macdaniel* answered, in *Long-*
‘ *Acre*, in the Parish of *St. Martins* in the Fields:
‘ he then asked, if she was married or a Widow? She
‘ answered a Widow, and added, *Macdaniel* could
‘ have told you, for that he had known her se-
‘ veral Years, and that he knew her in her hus-
‘ bands Life-time; and he saith, they both then
‘ declared they were old acquaintances. Mr.

Mr. Thomas Cooper, the Constable that had Kidden
in Charge, and carried him to Goal, saith;

‘ **T**HAT he often declared himself Innocent
‘ of any Robbery, and said that one *Tho-*
‘ *mas Blee*, employed him to go to *Tottenbam* to
‘ remove some household Goods; that if *Mary*
‘ *Jones* was robbed it was by him the said *Blee*,
‘ and that *Macdaniel*, *Berry* and *Mary Jones* were
‘ present, and heard *Kidden* make that Declara-
‘ tion: § That after *Kidden*’s Commitment was
‘ made, he saith, he proposed to taken *Kidden*
‘ along with them, and go to the *Castle* at the
‘ Bottom of *Saffron-Hill*, to endeavour to take
‘ *Blee*, *Kidden* saying, he got acquainted with him
‘ there, and did believe they might easily find him;
‘ but *Macdaniel* replied, he knew *Blee* and would
‘ take him before he slept, and insisted on carrying
‘ *Kidden* (whom he pretended to look up as a de-
‘ perate Fellow) to Goal first, for fear (as he
‘ said) he should make his Escape. He saith he
‘ at last consented it should be as *Macdaniel* pro-
‘ posed, and charged him and *Berry* to assist him,

P 2

but

* See page 79.

§ They never in such Cases told the right Place of
Abode.

but Berry desired to be excused, saying, he was lame, and could do but little Good, but he insisted he should go; *Maddanet* desired he might be excused, saying, they could do without him, and so Berry went away with *Mary Jones*, it being then about 9 or 10 o'Clock at Night saith; *Mary Jones* had on a black Cloak and Bonnet, and a red Cloak over it, and that *Mary Jones* was present at the Payment of the Reward at the *Salutation* in *Newgate-street*, and had, as this Informant believes, 15 Pounds for her Share; and this Informant further saith, that he went on *Sunday March* 14th to *Newgate*, and was shewed into a Room where there were ten or twelve Women, amongst whom was *Mary Jones*; and that he picked her out, and says that she is the same Person who swore against *Kidden*, before Justice *WITHERS*.

THOMAS COOPER.

John Lingley, now of the Parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, declares,

THAT sometime in *January* 1754, about nine or ten o'Clock at Night, he being then in *Glick-lane*, was called to by *Berry*, who he knows very well, and who desired him to Rep into the *Castle-Albouse*, and ask if my Lord *Blee* was there, and if so, to tell him to come to him immediately; and this Informant saith, he went and asked for *Blee*, and was directed to him in a back Room, and found him with a Pint Pot before him; and that on being called, he came and left his Beer behind him, and went away with *Berry*, and a Woman who was in his Company; that she was a shortish Woman, and had on a red Cloak and black Bonnet; and this informant saith, that on *Monday March* the

the eighth, he went to Newgate order to see *Mary Jones*, that he was shewed into a Room in which were six or seven Women, that he directly pointed out *Mary Jones*, and says, he is sure she is the same Woman that was with *Berry* when he, this Informant, called *Bles* out of the Castle; and that she, *Berry* and *Bles* went away together up *Saffron-Hill*. *Ann Lingley*, wife to the above, and Servant at that Time to *Berry's* Wife, or Company-keeper confirmeth the Acquaintance of *Berry*, and *Jones* and of *Berry* and *Bles* and that *Berry* supplied *Bles* with Money, a Guinea at one time, and said, that was the last he was intitled to.

Miss Mason, who was Servant to the said *Berry's* Wife confirms the quaintance of *Berry*, *Jones* and *Bles*, very fully.

Mr. GARDNER, Clerk to the Recorder, moreover declared, That on the first of *March* 1754, he attended the Claimants to the Reward upon the Conviction of *Joshua Kidder*, at the *Salutation* in *Green Fields*, *Newgate-street*; and which he paid as follows, viz.

To <i>Mary Jones</i> ,	15	0	0
To <i>Stephen Macdaniel</i>	12	0	0
To <i>John Berry</i> ,	8	0	0
and to <i>Mrs Cooper</i> the Constable	5	0	0
	40	0	0

He at the same Time produced the Receipt signed by

Mary Jones her Mark,
Stephen Macdaniel,
John Berry,
Thomas Cooper.

Mr.

120 *A true and faithful Narrative, &c.*

Mr. *Hanford*, High-Constable of *Flussbury* Division, attending the Execution of *Kidden* (being acquainted with his Relations) just as the Cart was about being drawn from under the said *Kidden*, he expostulated with him; told him what a terrible Aggravation it would be of his Guilt, to die with a Lie in his Mouth: When the poor Creature in the most solemn Manner protested his Innocence, and that he neither robbed the Woman himself, neither did he know any thing of her being robbed.

Mr. *Taylor*, Ordinary of *Newgate*, has assured me of the self-same thing.

BEING possessed of the foregoing Evidence, and *Mary Jones* safe in *Newgate*, as before related; three Days after her Commitment, viz. Feb. 5th, 1756, I presented my humble Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, praying their Assistance in an Affair of so much Consequence to the public Justice of the Nation.

Their Lordships very readily referred the Prosecution of *Macdaniel*, *Berry* and *Jones*, to their Lordship's Solicitor Mr. *Sharpe*, under whose great Care they have been accordingly indicted, tried, and convicted for the wilful Murder of that unfortunate Youth *Joshua Kidden*, by thus compassing his Death, and afterwards executing their most execrable purpose in the Manner above related.

But a Question having arose upon the Trial, whether the Facts they stood indicted of, amounted in Law, to murder: That important Question remains now to be argued before all the Judges of *England*.

JOSEPH COX.